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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Government Concedes to U.S. in Trade Dispute 1
End to Satellite Curbs *[KYODO]* 1
Takeshita Urges 'Bold Decision' *[KYODO]* 1
NTT Satellite Business *[KYODO]* 1
End to Wood Dispute Predicted *[KYODO]* 1
Wood Talks Measures *[KYODO]* 2
Structural Barrier Talks *[KYODO]* 2
U.S. Phone Standards Recommended *[KYODO]* 3
Kobe Steel, Texas Instruments Reach Chip Accord *[KYODO]* 3
BOJ 'Source' Comments on U.S. Trade Deficit *[KYODO]* 3
Hashimoto on NTT's Future, Foreign Exchange *[KYODO]* 3
Naha Rally Protests U.S. Live Fire Exercise *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 21 Mar]* 4
Ginowan Mayor Denounces Removal of Building *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 21 Mar]* 4
Japan Urges PRC To Hasten Normalization *[KYODO]* 4
Government Regrets Iraqi Execution of Journalist *[KYODO]* 5
Foreign Ministry Hopes for Stability in Germany *[KYODO]* 5
Authorities Refuse Entry To More Foreigners *[KYODO]* 5
Kim Yong-sam Urges Full Rights for Koreans *[KYODO]* 6
Koreans' Status Discussed *[KYODO]* 7
Yokohama City To Send Medical Team to Romania *[KYODO]* 7
Kaifu, Ishikawa Address Academy Graduating Class *[KYODO]* 7
Narita Protesters Battle Workers Removing Hut *[KYODO]* 8
Police Arrest Seven *[KYODO]* 8

Mongolia

MPRP Central Committee Holds Session 20 Mar *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 8
Draft for Presidential System Published *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 9
People's Great Hural Opens Session 21 Mar *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 9
Agenda Cited *[Tokyo KYODO]* 9
Opposition Leaders Dissatisfied With MPRP *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 9

North Korea

Norodom Sihanouk Arrives in Pyongyang 21 Mar *[Pyongyang Radio]* 9
KCNA Details Arrival 10
U.S. 'Eavesdropping' on Communications in ROK *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10
KCNA Decries U.S. 'Bugging' 10
Response to Disarmament Talks Proposal Urged *[KCNA]* 10
Transfer of U.S. Missiles to ROK Reported *[KCNA]* 11
U.S. Introduces B-52 Bombers Into South Korea *[KCNA]* 11
South Denounced for Landing Exercise on Highway *[KCNA]* 12
Daily Dismisses DLP Reshuffle as 'Artifice' *[KCNA]* 12
Japan's Call for Better Relations 'Ridiculous' *[KCNA]* 12
Daily Warns Japan Against 'Militarist Moves' *[KCNA]* 13
Paper Decries ROK-Japanese Cadet Exchange *[KCNA]* 13
Party Marks USSR Economic Agreement's Signing *[KCNA]* 14

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Iranian Leader *[KCNA]* 14
Daily on Kim Il-song Publication on Fisheries *[KCNA]* 14
Kim Chong-il's Wise Guidance Noted at Symposium *[KCNA]* 14
NODONG SINMUN Lauds Socialist System *[6 Mar]* 15
'Innovations' in Salt Production Reported *[KCNA]* 17

South Korea

Kim Yong-sam Arrives in Moscow, Gives Statement *[YONHAP]* 17
Soviet Head of Consular Department Named *[YONHAP]* 18
Government Seeks East Bloc Technological Ties *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 Mar]* 18
Government Preparing for Ties With Romania *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 Mar]* 19
Spillover From Japanese TV Causes Concern *[YONHAP]* 19
Japanese Political Figure To Visit Pyongyang *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 Mar]* 20
Opposition To Wage Struggle Against Government *[THE KOREA TIMES 20 Mar]* 20
PPD Adopts Open Letter on Local Autonomy *[YONHAP]* 20
Paper Analyzes Taegu By-Election Campaign *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 Mar]* 21
Wife's Suicide Attempt 'Drove' Chong To Run *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 Mar]* 21
Agricultural Minister on Handling Market Opening *[THE KOREA TIMES 20 Mar]* 22
* Autonomy Law Introduces New Election Climate *[TONG-A ILBO 11 Jan]* 22
* Measures To Reduce Dependence on Foreign Oil *[HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN 23 Jan]* . 23

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

17 Rohinja Insurgents Surrender in Maungdaw *[Rangoon Radio]* 25
Fire in Tamwe Burns Over 750 Homes 20 Mar *[Rangoon Radio]* 25
Regional Commander Meets Leaders in Kokang *[Rangoon Radio]* 25

Cambodia

Hun Sen Makes Inspection Tour, Speaks on Peace *[SPK]* 25
Men Sam-an Visits Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 26
Enemy Casualties Reported in Banteay Meanchey *[SPK]* 26
Heng Samrin Greets Gorbachev on Election *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 26
Sihanouk Speaks on FUNCINPEC Anniversary *[Radio VOK]* 27
Resistance Comments on Plan for Neutral Camp *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 20 Mar]* 29
8 Trucks Reported Ambushed in Preah Vihear *[Radio VONADK]* 29
VONADK Reports 270 SRV Troops Sent 29
VODK on Hun Sen Remarks on Nicaraguan Polls 29

Indonesia

Perception of Threat From North Said 'Outdated' *[MERDEKA 16 Mar]* 30
Team Leaves for Beijing To Discuss Debt Problem *[ANTARA]* 31
Minister on Tentative Date of Satellite Launch *[ANTARA]* 31
Minister Comments on Planned Nuclear Reactor *[ANTARA]* 31
Directives Given on Selling Shares to Cooperatives *[THE JAKARTA POST 16 Mar]* 31

Laos

Chinese Foreign Relations Delegation Pays Visit 32
Meets Phoun Sipaseut *[KPL]* 32
Meets Oudom Khatthi-gna *[KPL]* 32
Meets Sisavat Keobounphan *[Vientiane Radio]* 32
Ends Visit 20 Mar *[KPL]* 33
Thai Princess Leaves Luang Prabang for Saravane *[Vientiane Radio]* 33
PASASON Denies Khmer Claim on SRV Troops *[Vientiane Radio]* 33
Phoumi Vongvichit Interviews With Radio Moscow *[KPL]* 33
Phoumi Vongvichit Receives Soviet Ambassador *[Vientiane Radio]* 34

Officials Send Greetings to Gorbachev on Election 34
Phoumi Vongvichit Message *[Vientiane Radio]* 34
Kaysone Phomvihan Message *[Vientiane Radio]* 34
Phoumi Vongvichit Greets Namibian Independence *[KPL]* 35

Philippines

Imelda Marcos Accused of Damaging U.S. Ties *[Manila Radio]* 35
Publicity Drive Against Negative Reports Begun *[Quezon City Radio]* 35
Column Blames CIA for Coup Attempts *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIER 20 Mar]* 35
Column Doubts U.S. Will Abandon Bases *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 20 Mar]* 36
Aquino Congratulates Gorbachev on Election *[Quezon City Radio]* 37
World Bank Loans $390 Million for Energy *[MANILA BULLETIN 19 Mar]* 37
Foreign Office on 'Formosa House Delegation' *[MALAYA 16 Mar]* 38
Defense Secretary Leaves for Kuala Lumpur *[Quezon City Radio]* 39
Aquino Explains Ramos' Exclusion in Graft Charge *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 39
Aquino Says Extension of Powers Up to Congress *[Manila Radio]* 39
Labor Groups Warn Against Oil Price Increase *[Manila Radio]* 39
Aquino Not To Prevent Oil Price Increases *[Manila Radio]* 40
Aquino, Party To Discuss Abad's Confirmation *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 40
Ileto Comments on Possible New Coup Attempt *[Manila Radio]* 40
RAM-SFP Calls for Nonviolent Action *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 20 Mar]* 41
Businessman Arrested for Harboring Rebel Soldier *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 41
Probe of Alleged Communist Infiltration Ordered *[Quezon City Radio]* 41
Communist Infiltration Alarms PAP Donors *[MANILA BULLETIN 20 Mar]* 41
NPA Said To Offer Monthly Wage to Recruits *[MANILA BULLETIN]* 42
Report Examines Negros Anti-Insurgency Campaign 42
Part One *[MANILA STANDARD 12 Mar]* 42
Part Two, First Installment *[MANILA STANDARD 13 Mar]* 43
Part Two, Second Installment *[MANILA STANDARD 14 Mar]* 44
Agro-Forestry Exports Income Shrink in 1989 *[BUSINESS STAR 15 Mar]* 45
Column Examines Ongoing Irrigation Projects *[BUSINESS STAR 19 Mar]* 46

Thailand

Possible U.S. Action Against Khun Sa Viewed *[DAILY NEWS 20 Mar]* 47
Chawalit Plans One-Day Visit to SRV 26 Mar *[BANGKOK POST 21 Mar]* 47
General Says Neutral Camp Plan Not Sound *[THE NATION 16 Mar]* 48
Burmese Airplane Hijackers Sentenced to 6 Years *[AFP]* 48
Sitthi Comments on Possible SAP Reorganization *[BANGKOK POST 17 March]* 48
Central Bank Raises Interest Rate on Loans *[THE NATION 17 Mar]* 49

Vietnam

Conference on Ideological Task Held 20-24 Feb *[NHAN DAN 27 Feb]* 50
Article Views Impact of Party's Eighth Plenum *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 19 Mar]* 53
Hanoi Party Committee Reviews Tasks in 1990 *[Hanoi Radio]* 54
Symposium on Activities in Southern Provinces *[Hanoi Radio]* 54
Illegal Departure Organizers Tried in Ben Tre *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
Quang Ngai Sees Decline in Wired Radio Service *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
Storm Victims Face Food Shortage in Provinces *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
Nghe Tinh Tries To Cope *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Bilateral Cooperation Promoted With Canada *[VNA]* 56
Leaders Send Message of Recognition to Namibia *[VNA]* 56
Paper Hails Namibia Independence Declaration *[VNA]* 56
Do Muoi Sends Greetings on Antiapartheid Day *[VNA]* 57

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Hawke Prepared To Relax South Africa Sanctions *[AFP]* 58
Evans Announces Fund for Cambodian Peace Process *[Melbourne International]* 58
December Quarterly Figures Show 'Sharp Slowdown' *[Melbourne International]* 58

New Caledonia

Kanak Leader on Achievements of Separatists *[AFP]* 58

New Zealand

Minister Views Australian Elections, Candidates *[AFP]* 59

Papua New Guinea

Rebel Chief Issues Ultimatum on Island Violence *[AFP]* 59

Japan

Government Concedes to U.S. in Trade Dispute

End to Satellite Curbs

OW1803105890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Japan will lift its curbs on foreign weather satellite procurement by the Meteorological Agency, government officials said Sunday.

The concession in the Japan-U.S. trade dispute over the Japanese satellite market follows nondiscriminatory treatment of foreign concerns in connection with a Japanese project to develop communications satellites, dubbed CS4, the officials said.

The Meteorological Agency has a plan to purchase a weather satellite, codenamed GM5, from Japanese satellite makers, after it goes into a stationary orbit in 1993. Washington wants Japan to treat foreign satellites without discrimination in public procurements, one of three examples of Japan's "unfair" trade practices under the so-called "Super 301" clause of the U.S. 1988 Omnibus Trade Act. The working-level negotiations on satellite trade between Japan and the U.S. ended in little progress in Washington on March 12 and 13.

Takeshita Urges 'Bold Decision'

OW2003144790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1411 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita called on Tuesday for a "bold decision" on the part of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to settle talks with the United States on removing structural impediments to trade and investment, officials said. Takeshita visited Kaifu at his office immediately after returning home from an 11-day trip to the United States and Brazil.

Takeshita quoted U.S. leaders as saying that whether the administration of President George Bush can address pressure from Congress depends on Japan's response to U.S. demands. The United States has strongly pressed Japan to ease regulations on the opening of large-scale retail stores, tighten the Antimonopoly Law, and boost public works spending sharply. Takeshita, who as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party's most powerful faction was instrumental in pushing Kaifu to power last year, urged the prime minister to exercise his leadership in resolving the dispute, the officials said.

Kaifu vowed to Takeshita that he would do his utmost to take the necessary political decisions by himself, the officials said.

Japan and the United States are scheduled to compile an interim report on their Structural Impediments Initiative talks by early April. A final report is due by July.

Takeshita met with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in Washington last week and discussed mainly bilateral economic relations.

NTT Satellite Business

OW1903234290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1453 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—A senior government official hinted Monday at the possibility of separating of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.'s [NTT] satellite communications business. Tetsuo Morimoto, director general of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry's Telecommunications Bureau, dropped the suggestion at a press meeting in remarks regarding a government advisory panel's report calling for the division of NTT into three separate firms within five years. "We will act with earlier recommendations by the Telecommunications Council in mind if NTT launches commercial satellite communications business in a full-fledged manner," he said.

Morimoto's remarks came amid the growing possibility of NTT purchasing its own communications satellite as a result of a reported government plan to exclude NTT from its project to develop a new communications satellite called CS4.

CS4 is included in trade talks between Tokyo and Washington over U.S. access to Japan's satellite market. U.S. officials accuse the Japanese Government of discriminating against U.S.-made satellite parts to protect its budding satellite industry. The U.S. contends the CS4 will be used commercially and therefore procurement of related parts should be open to foreign firms. But Japan reportedly plans to use the CS4 solely for research by keeping NTT from taking part in the project.

An NTT official declined to comment on Morimoto's remarks. "I can't comment now that the Government has not told us of any plan to exclude NTT from the CS4 project," he said.

End to Wood Dispute Predicted

OW2003144990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—A government official said a resolution to the trade dispute between the United States and Japan over wood products could very well be reached during the next round of bilateral talks due to be held early next month. The unnamed official said the U.S. Government's positive reaction to Japanese concessions presented to the U.S. last week on the question has paved the way for a solution to the long-standing trade dispute.

During these talks, Japanese officials said they would make a clear distinction between finished and semifinished wood products, he said. Duties on laminated finished products are much higher than on semifinished products.

Japan said it would be willing to shift its current agricultural grading system which tests the durability of wood to one recommended by the U.S. which would require the use of machines. Japanese officials also expressed willingness to revise their building codes.

Details regarding Japanese concessions including the clarification of finished and semifinished wood products will be discussed during the next round of talks to be held in Tokyo early next month.

Wood Talks Measures

OW1903130790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Government and ruling party officials have begun final work on drafting measures aimed at diffusing a trade dispute with the United States over wood products, government sources said Monday.

The move came after government and Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] leaders endorsed earlier in the day a plan to settle the wood products issue along with two others—satellites and supercomputers—which are subject to bilateral working-level trade talks being held under U.S. pressure for possible retaliation under its trade act, they said. The sources said the plan calls for settling the three pending issues in a package by early April, when the two countries are slated to present an interim report on separate talks on removing structural barriers to bilateral trade.

Washington has singled out Japan as a nation with unfair trade practices in the three areas under the so-called Super 301 clause of its 1988 trade act and threatened trade retaliation if Japan fails to open these markets to U.S. firms by June 16. With regard to wood products, the United States has cited related tariff codes, tariff classifications, agricultural grading standards and construction standards on wooden houses in Japan as serving to keep U.S. wood products out of its market.

In the latest round of talks in Washington last week, Japanese officials assured their U.S. counterparts of their willingness to revise building codes and apply tariff classifications flexibly for more U.S. lumber imports. But the U.S. side, among other things, is still demanding tariffs on some laminated wood products be lowered to allow more use of American wood products in Japan. Japan so far has said tariffs on wood products should be discussed under the framework of multilateral talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, not under bilateral talks.

U.S. annual exports of wood products to Japan, mostly in logs, total some 2.8 billion dollars at present. The U.S. lumber industry reportedly estimates alleged Japanese barriers translate into between 1 to 2 billion dollars in lost sales to U.S. producers.

Structural Barrier Talks

OW2103053890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0434 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Warrenton, Virginia, March 20 KYODO—Senior Japanese and American officials held a secrecy-shrouded meeting in this small Virginia town Tuesday in a bid to resolve structural problems affecting trade between both countries without jeopardizing the overall bilateral relationship. Japanese and American sources said the informal meeting of subcabinet-level officials and their deputies were discussing ways to change or alter structural barriers to trade and investments chiefly in Japan.

The meeting in Warrenton, about an hour's drive from the U.S. capital, will be followed by a fourth full-scale meeting of the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) in Washington on April 2-3. The two governments are racing against the clock to prepare a midterm report on the SII by mid-April.

Several Japanese reporters at the scene were threatened with arrest as they tried to position themselves at the approaches to the site of the meeting. U.S. sources said the closely guarded session in Virginia will last "at least until midnight." A highly-placed American source said the meeting may continue through Wednesday.

The Japanese Government, fearful of any repercussions from premature disclosure of the exact content of Japanese trade concessions, has imposed a news blackout on the Virginia conference.

The Japanese concessions include easing the Large-Scale Retail Store Law, tightening antimonopoly regulations, and boosting public works spending. But U.S. officials said the concessions are far from sufficient, arguing more drastic measures are needed to help reduce the U.S. trade deficit with Japan and contribute to an improvement in the standards of living in Japan, the world's second largest economy.

The government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is viewed by both U.S. and Japanese officials here as being totally incapacitated due to its weak factional base within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party Kaifu represents. The sources pointed out for example that Kaifu had to wait for former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, leader of the LDP's largest faction, to return from his trip to the U.S. and Brazil before being able to prepare a detailed response to the American demands.

The Finance Ministry also did not start full preparations for a trip to the west coast by Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto until Takeshita returned to Tokyo to report on his talks with President George Bush, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, and other senior U.S. officials. Japanese officials hinted at a Hashimoto-Brady meeting in Los Angeles later this week, but U.S. treasury officials declined comment.

U.S. Phone Standards Recommended

OW2003001890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1448 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—A study group Monday suggested the unification of basic Japanese and U.S. standards for a next-generation digital auto telephone system, effective next year.

A Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications study group on digital auto telephone systems led by Yasuhiko Yasuda, a professor at the University of Tokyo, made the suggestion in a report compiled Monday. The ministry is due to establish clear technological standards for digital auto phone systems around May so that the unified standards can be introduced beginning next year, ministry officials said Monday.

The suggestion followed an agreement between the Japanese and U.S. governments at last year's negotiations over the opening of the Japanese market for auto telephones that a joint study should be conducted on a formula for a next-generation auto phone system. The study group also suggested in the report that frequency intervals for a next-generation digital auto phone system should be 50 kilohertz, compared with 60 khz in the United States. It was also recommended that the communication formula should be Time Division Multiplex Access (TDMA) and the number of channels per frequency three channels, the same as in the U.S. TDMA is a time division multiplexing system that allocates time slots to various users according to demand.

Commenting on the group's suggestions, Tetsuo Morimoto, the ministry's Telecommunication Bureau chief, said a perfect unification of the two countries' technological standards could not be realized. He added, however, that the proposed Japanese and U.S. standards are basically common. The official said the car and handy phone's specifications would meet the proposed standards through minor modification.

The report forecast that Japan's demand for car phones would reach 5.3 million units and that for handy phones 2.6 million units a decade later. It also suggested that Japan should introduce a digital car phone system next year.

Kobe Steel, Texas Instruments Reach Chip Accord

OW2003011690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Osaka, March 19 KYODO—Kobe Steel Ltd. announced Monday that a joint advanced semiconductor device enterprise will be set up in May in Japan with Texas Instruments Inc. It marks Kobe Steel's first diversification into the semiconductor device field, the firm said.

The joint firm will mainly manufacture complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) logic devices, including very large scale integrated circuits (VLSI) and application-specific integrated circuits (ASICS), from mid-1992. These devices, of a power-saving type, are intended for use in desktop electronic calculators, timepieces, cameras, and other products.

The semiconductor devices thus manufactured will be sold exclusively to Texas Instruments for sale to customers in Japan, the Asia-Pacific region, and other world markets under the TI brand name. The joint firm will be capitalized at 8.8 billion yen with Kobe Steel having the majority interest. It will begin building a 55 billion yen plant in May in Hyogo Prefecture, where Kobe is located, scheduled to be completed in the summer of 1992. Initial production will be 15,000-20,000 six-inch wafer units per month. The plant will have an initial workforce of about 300.

Commenting on the joint venture, Sokichi Kametaka, president of Kobe Steel, said the semiconductors manufactured by the joint firm will be "U.S. products" and that the use of such products will serve to increase the ratio of Japan's foreign chip usage.

BOJ 'Source' Comments on U.S. Trade Deficit

OW2003151290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1443 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—A source at the Bank of Japan [BOJ] said Tuesday the U.S. trade data for January provided evidence of a steady U.S. economy but said it is unlikely to have much impact on foreign exchange rates. "I don't see it having an impact on currency markets," where the yen has been weakening against the dollar, the source said. The source made the comment after the U.S. Commerce Department reported that the U.S. trade deficit rose 20.5 percent in January from the prior month to a seasonaly adjusted 9.25 billion dollars. Despite widening from the month before, the January deficit was smaller than market expectations of 9.7 billion dollars.

The source said the figure came within the range of his expectation and noted that he had an impression that the U.S. economy is unexpectedly strong in light of the high growth in both exports and imports. The Commerce Department reported that exports climbed 4.0 percent to a record 32.07 billion dollars, while customs-valued imports climbed 7.3 percent to 41.32 billion dollars.

The source went on to say that he is confident that the yen will regain its strengh gradually within one or two months as the dollar has reached a high level against the Japanese currency.

Hashimoto on NTT's Future, Foreign Exchange

OW1903132990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto hinted Monday the sharp fall of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone [NTT] Corp. stock stemmed from speculation about a possible breakup of

Japan's telecommunications giant. "Uncertainty over NTT's futu[illegible] is believed to be adversely affecting the stock," Hashimoto told reporters. "I hope the stock will be properly appreciated once such uncertainty disappears," he said.

NTT stock dropped 20,000 yen from Friday to close at 1,180,000 yen on Monday, sinking below 1,197,000 yen, a price at which the government released NTT shares for the first time in 1987.

On another front, NTT President Haruo Yamaguchi expressed regret over the sharp fall of the company's stock. He said NTT will strive for better performance in order to woo back investors.

Hashimoto, commenting on the foreign exchange market, said he is very much concerned about the yen's rapid fall. "It's a very annoying matter," he said. Reaffirmed coordination between Japan and the United States toward a stable yen-dollar rate so far failed to stop the yen's weakening, he said.

Naha Rally Protests U.S. Live Fire Exercise

OW2103020990 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 21 Mar 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] The prefectural People's Council To Safeguard the Constitution and To Oppose the Security Pact [CSCOSP], and the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs [CAAHB] held a protest at the front gate of the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB] on the afternoon of 20 March to oppose the live fire exercise held by U.S. forces since morning across prefectural Highway 104. About 70 people wearing red headbands with the slogan "Opposing Military Exercises" attended the rally. While repeatedly yelling the slogan "Withdraw Military Bases" in unison, they denounced the fact that "U.S. forces intensified their exercises because the DFAB tolerated them on the pretext of the security pact."

In response, the DFAB closed its front gate as well as the window shutters on the ground floor while the rally was held.

At the rally, Shinzo Miyagi, chief of the CAAHB Secretariat, stated: "We will never stop holding local rallies as long as exercises across prefectural highways continue. We will continue to denounce the DFAB."

Meanwhile, CSCOSP Vice Chairman Isamu Yamakawa said: "While the live fire exercise across the prefectural highway is being held in Kin Village today, the parachute exercise is being held in Yomitan Village. Let us continue with our struggle so that we can turn Okinawa into a peaceful island as soon as possible."

Ginowan Mayor Denounces Removal of Building

OW2103060090 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 21 Mar 90 Morning Edition p 29

[Text] A five-story building, located near the southern side of the U.S. forces' Futenma Airfield was purchased by the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB], and by 20 March, had been nearly demolished and removed. The building is located near the southern tip of the runway. According to the DFAB, the building has to be removed "to ensure the safety of aircraft navigation, as well as of neighborhood residents." The DFAB has procured the surrounding land, amounting to 558 square meters, and has decided to provide the land for the use of the airfield. Ginowan Mayor Seiken Tobaru has criticized the action, saying that "it runs counter to the policies of the city, as well as of the prefecture, to reduce and readjust U.S. military bases."

Originally, the building's first and second floors were used as offices, the third and fourth floors were occupied by four households, and the fifth floor unoccupied. The Naha DFAB started negotiations with the land and building owners, as well as tenants last September, and succeeded in procuring the building and obtaining the tenants' consent to move out last December. It has not been disclosed how much the DFAB paid to procure the building or to compensate the tenants for moving out. Reportedly, the DFAB plans to use the land as a safety buffer zone [hoan- kansho-chitai].

The building, belonging to the Gun-Hanabaru Lot Area in Ojana, is located just across the fence surrounding the base. Because it is located close to the aircraft's flight path, the U.S. has long requested the Ginowan City Government "to remove the building, because it obstructs navigation." To that request, the city government indicated that "the building was no problem at all when viewed from the standpoint of the building law or the land utilization plan (within the area for urbanization)."

Mayor Tobaru criticized the action and stated: "As the building is located on one lot of Samashita Land Readjustment Area, the procurement of the land for use by the military base runs counter to the readjustment project aiming at high-density land utilization. We are also concerned about the possible rise of land prices in the area. The procurement of urban development land for use by bases also goes against public opinion, demanding the return of bases."

Regarding his remarks, the DFAB holds that "the action was taken to ensure the safety of navigation, as well as for residents' safety, not to expand bases."

Japan Urges PRC To Hasten Normalization

OW2003122790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Japan welcomes China's continued reform and open-door policies but

calls on Beijing to hasten normalization of ties with the West, Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said Tuesday. Watanabe was referring at a press conference to Chinese Premier Li Peng's speech at China's National People's Congress, which opened Tuesday.

Li, in a report to the legislature, stressed the need for social and political stability and steady economic development.

Watanabe noted that Li's speech suggested that mutual efforts to improve bilateral Sino-U.S. ties, once pursued by both sides, are fading and that China is unilaterally criticizing the United States. Foreign Ministry sources said, however, the overall tone of Li's speech was not as severe as expected, reflecting the difficulties China now faces. Japan takes special notice of the fact that China did not criticize the Soviet Union for political and economic reforms, Watanabe said. A policy of noninterference toward East European nations was also apparent, he said. China is positively assessing friendly relations with Japan, the spokesman said.

China has been condemned by Western nations, which have suspended economic assistance and banned high-level government contacts to protest the military crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators in Beijing last June. China has criticized sweeping democratic reforms in Eastern Europe and maintains close ties with North Korea, which is ruled by a hard line communist personality cult.

Government Regrets Iraqi Execution of Journalist

OW1603120190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Japan regrets that a British-based journalist has been executed in Iraq despite a worldwide appeal for clemency, Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said Friday.

Rabatoi Bazoft, 31, a British journalist of Iranian origin working for Britain's OBSERVER newspaper, was executed Thursday. He had been convicted of spying.

"Although due process of law was taken, it is very regrettable that the execution was carried out" Watanabe said. He said that Japan, which has friendly relations with both Iraq and Britain, issued its appeal for clemency to Iraq on Wednesday.

Bazoft, disguised as an Indian doctor, and a British nurse were arrested last September after driving in an ambulance to a secret military installation southwest of Baghdad to investigate reports of an explosion.

Foreign Ministry Hopes for Stability in Germany

OW2003130090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1154 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—The unification process between the two German states will stabilize with the establishment of the new government in East Germany after the nation's first free election in more than 40 years on Sunday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said Tuesday.

"We have been concerned that hasty progress to unification in itself was a destabilizing factor, but now we believe the process will be stabilized and a reasonable pace will return," as the post-election situation settles, Watanabe said. "Our position is that the legitimate wish of German people based on the principles of self-determination should be achieved in a peaceful and constructive manner," the spokesman said. Watanabe said that Japan's role in the process of German unification is to express the "voice of reason," without taking concrete measures.

The Japanese Government on Monday expressed hopes that the new East German Government will help stem the flow of its citizens to West Germany and stabilize domestic conditions. Foreign Ministry sources have predicted that establishment of conservative-dominated governments in both German states will upgrade the pace of unification. They said regional issues will influence the pace of unification, including talks on the security aspects of German unification among the two German states and the four World War II allies—the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain.

The Soviet Union, which insists on a neutral, unified Germany, may be isolated because the conservative-backed German governments support participation of the unified Germany in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the sources said.

Watanabe dismissed offering immediate economic assistance to East Germany, noting that the priority lay in talks on creation of the European reconstruction bank. Ministry sources said negotiations on monetary unity will be accelerated between the two German states with the focus on the exchange rate of the German mark. They said a one-to-one rate more advantageous to East Germany would invite bankruptcies and inflation in that nation, while harsh rate will diminish East Germany's consumption capacity and trigger an exodus to West Germany. They added that Japan hopes for improved bilateral relations with East Germany under the completely non-communist government.

Authorities Refuse Entry To More Foreigners

OW1803092190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Japan's immigration authorities refused entry into Japan during 1989 to over 10,000 foreigners, including 3,900 South Koreans and 2,000 Malaysians, alongside swelling numbers of other Asians, Latin Americans and Africans, officials said. The Justice Ministry's Immigration Bureau said it rejected entry to a total of 10,404 foreign nationals last year at

Japan's air and sea ports nationwide, partially on suspicion of being potential illegal workers on tourist visas. The number was slightly down from 11,107 in 1988.

A bureau official, Sadao Kawakita, said the decrease apparently came from the suspension in January 1989 of reciprocal visa immunity agreements with both Pakistan and Bangladesh. The number of Pakistanis who were refused entry in 1988, then top in the category at 4,288, shrank to 677 in 1989. Bangladeshis, who numbered 3,233 in 1988 as the second biggest group, totaled 510 last year.

The increase in the number of South Koreans refused entry to 3,906 from 1,070 in 1988 reflects the nation's deregulation from the beginning of 1989 in tourist visa issuance to its nationals, Kawakita said. The immigration official, however, did not specify on what grounds officers denied entry to such tourist visa bearing foreigners. He said during 1989, nearly three million foreigners entered Japan.

Japan's immigration laws ban employment of foreigners for "unskilled" labor such as construction work. But the country's brisk economy and increasing labor shortage have attracted foreigners, especially Asians, to try to enter the market by a variety of means, including coming as Japanese-language course students or even, in the case of some Chinese, posing as Vietnamese refugees.

Japanese immigration authorities, which will implement laws from June 1 to punish with imprisonment "unskilled" foreign laborers and their employers, estimate by computer calculations there are well over 100,000 foreigners whose visas have expired currently staying "underground" in Japan.

Kawakita said Japan retains a mutual visa immunity treaty with Malaysia, which may help increase the potential population of illegal job seekers in Japan. Immigration officers denied entry to 2,000 Malaysians last year, up from 394 in 1988 to become the second largest ethnic group after the South Koreans. Thais were listed third with 793, although the figure was down from 996 in 1988.

The number of Iranians refused entry was 325, up from only 19 last year while Taiwanese rose to 374 from 253, Singaporeans to 325 from 97, Sri Lankans to 205 from 38, Nepalese to 190 from 42, Indians to 138 from 81, Chinese to 119 from 31 and Myanmar [Burma] nationals to 54 from seven. Filipinos, once constituting the biggest portion of immigrant labor in Japan, totaled 243, down from 365 in 1988.

Sixty-seven U.S. citizens were refused entry in 1989, up from 31 in 1988.

Latin Americans refused entry included 62 Colombians and 35 Argentines traveling on tourist visas, up from 28 and three respectively in 1988. Among Africans, there were 64 Nigerians, a jump from only four in 1988, and 60 Ghanaians, up from 28, refused entry to Japan last year.

Kim Yong-sam Urges Full Rights for Koreans

OW1903155290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Kim Yong-sam, coleader of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party, urged Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Monday to give third-generation Korean residents here the same rights as Japanese citizens. Third-generation Koreans "are almost no different from Japanese, and it is important they are guaranteed the same status as Japanese," a Foreign Ministry official quoted Kim as saying.

Earlier in the day, the two governments opened talks on the legal status of so-called third-generation Koreans, who are mostly descendants of Korean laborers brought here before Korea was liberated from Japan after World War II. A 1965 bilateral agreement provided first- and second-generation Koreans the right to apply for permanent residency, and stipulated that the status of the third generation should be settled by January 1991.

Kim said that Tokyo should view treatment of some 680,000 Korean residents as a "Japanese racial problem," and called on Kaifu to provide the minority group with voting rights in local elections, and equal job opportunities. Korean residents are barred along with other foreign nationals from certain government jobs. Korean rights advocates say Koreans also face widespread discrimination when seeking employment in the private sector.

Kim and Kaifu agreed during the 30-minute meeting that the status of Korean residents is an important issue for bilateral relations, the official said in a briefing to reporters. The two governments are also discussing financial assistance for Korean residents stranded in Sakhalin after World War II, and compensation for Korean survivors of the atom bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Kim told Kaifu that progress on such issues is important to pave the way for a visit here by President No Tae-u.

Kaifu was quoted as saying, "I want to make a major effort to improve the friendly relations between Japan and South Korea." The prime minister said he would like No to come to Japan at the earliest convenient time, the official said. Kaifu also told Kim, who arrived here earlier on Monday and leaves for Moscow Tuesday, he hopes that changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe would have a positive impact on North Korea. "I hope that through the efforts of Japan and South Korea the North will become more democratic," he was quoted as saying.

Kim is to meet with Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi before his departure on Tuesday. It will be his second trip to the Soviet Union, and his first as a representative of the ruling party. Kim, formerly leader of the second largest opposition party, the Reunification Democratic Party, joined forces with former New Democratic Republican Party leader Kim Chong-pil and with No last month to form the new ruling party.

Koreans' Status Discussed

OW1903173690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1448 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—Japanese and South Korean officials discussed Monday Seoul's request for improvement in legal status of third-generation Korean residents in Japan, Japanese officials said. Japanese Foreign Ministry officials declined to reveal what was agreed upon, noting that the one-day discussion was unofficial in nature. The officials said, however, the both sides had the discussions in a "friendly atmosphere."

The two countries will hold another round of informal consultations over the matter probably in Seoul. But the exact date for the next round is not set, the officials said. The talks followed the first unofficial meeting on the issue in Seoul on February 27, and were the seventh since December 1988 when both nations started discussing the issue in official meetings.

"The latest talks were productive. On some points, differences of opinions were reduced," Foreign Ministry sources said. Sakutaro Tanino, director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, and his South Korean counterpart Kim Chung-ki, were among the officials present at the meeting.

South Korea has raised a list of demands, including an automatic provision for permanent residency, the abolition of both repatriation and fingerprinting as a means of registration, eligibility to vote in prefectural and municipal elections and the right to apply for employment in education institutions. Japanese officials maintained each item in the list involves complicated inter-ministry relations and thus requires time for adjustments, while South Korean officials demand a comprehensive solution, the sources said. South Korean officials are also linking concrete progress on the Korean residents' issue, together with requests for help for atomic bomb victims now living in South Korea and for the return home of Koreans living in Sakhalin, with the planned visit to Japan by President No Tae-u. No's visit to Tokyo has twice been canceled in the past year due to domestic situations in Japan.

The present negotiations are being conducted within the framework of a bilateral agreement in 1965. Both nations agreed to discuss before January 16, 1991, the legal status of third-generation Koreans born in Japan to second-generation Koreans on January 17, 1971 or later. Japan has hitherto "postponed" the issue, including the third- generation question, because they could not foresee what problems would arise and decided to leave the matter to future governments which would be in a better position to handle it according to current realities, a ministry official said.

Earlier in the day, Kim Yong-sam, coleader of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party, urged Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to grant third-generation Korean residents here the same rights as Japanese citizens. The third-generation Korean residents who are in Japan have no legal protection under Japanese law. Japan grants permanent residence permits to Koreans who lived in Japan before World War II, to first-generation Koreans born in Japan between January 17, 1966 and January 16, 1971, and to second- generation Koreans. There are three [as received] third-generation Koreans in Japan.

Yokohama City To Send Medical Team to Romania

OW1903130990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Yokohama, March 19 KYODO—The city of Yokohama will dispatch a medical team to its Romanian sister city of Constanza beginning Friday through April 2, municipal officials said Monday. The six-member team headed by Tsuneo Hiramoto, director general of the city's public health bureau, will donate medical goods worth 3 million yen and inspect local medical institutions. The delegation will be the first to be sent by a Japanese municipal government. The Foreign Ministry sent a medical team in January to help the Romanian Government, which is suffering from shortage of medical supplies.

Kaifu, Ishikawa Address Academy Graduating Class

OW1803112990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0958 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Yokosuka, Kanagawa Pref., March 18 KYODO—Private-sector demand for high-tech skills trimmed the number of student cadets pledging themselves as future officers as the National Defense Academy celebrated its 34th graduating class here on Sunday.

Both Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Defense Agency Director General Yozo Ishikawa had encouragement for the 430-member graduating class, comprising 424 Japanese and six foreigners, but reiterated the dangers of a world in political transition and the continued threat of Soviet Far Eastern armaments.

"We will continue efforts to plan for the appropriate level of defense strength," said Kaifu, adding that further support for the upkeep of U.S. military personnel stationed here would ensure the smooth working of U.S.-Japan security ties.

Over 1,000 spectators, including families, Japanese Dietmen and senior U.S. military officers, were on hand to witness the ceremonies in this seaside town southwest

of Tokyo. University officials said a record 60 graduating students declined to take the pledge as Self Defense Force [SDF] candidates, ensured of commissions as second lieutenants, a slight rise from the 58 who rejected military careers in 1989. Though the majority of graduates listed personal or other reasons for rejecting an SDF placement, others indicated they had already signed on with private firms.

By far the majority of academy students (374 out of 430 this year) chose technical studies offered in areas ranging from precision mechanics to information engineering, including the four Thai and two Singaporean graduates this year. Besides free tuition and housing, students receive an allowance of some 70,000 yen per month during their four years of study.

Some nonpledgees are always expected, according to the Defense Agency, but officials were angered last year when some 19 graduates quit to work in private firms within weeks of pledging themselves as SDF officers. They took an average of 250,000 yen in salary and "retirement" pay with them. New laws passed last November in response specify a six-month period before a new SDF member is eligible for a retirement bonus.

Remarks by defense chief Ishikawa included special emphasis on graduates of the academy's engineering research program, who he said would bear responsibility for the modernization of the forces. The agency has increased the portion of its budget allotted to research yearly in an effort to shore up a system that still relies on U.S.-modeled equipment for its most advanced armaments.

Kaifu repeated warnings of uncertainty as former socialist countries made the transition to freer forms of government, pointing in particular to the German unification process. But his solemn tone did little to dampen the eruption at the ceremony's end when caps shot skyward and the dark blue suited cadets streamed out of the auditorium to suit up in the blue, black and khaki of the Air, Maritime and Ground Self Defense Forces. Some 94 airmen, 89 sailors and 181 airmen arrayed themselves for the pledge ceremony, carried out before the chiefs of staff of all three forces and after a ceremonial flyby of fighter jets and helicopters. The SDF was established in 1954 at the end of the post-World War II U.S. occupation.

Narita Protesters Battle Workers Removing Hut

OW1903023190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0135 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO—A squad of 200 workers Monday braved a hail of stones and Molotov cocktails to dismantle a hut built by antiairport activists in the way of a projected new runway at Narita Airport, officials of the Transport Ministry and the New Tokyo International Airport Authority said.

No arrests or injuries were immediately reported as the squad, backed by about 1,000 riot police, started to disperse antiairport groups, the officials said. When authorities directed water cannon at the protestors, several antiairport activists in the hut threw Molotov cocktails and stones against the squad, the officials said.

Monday's raid is the third time authorities have removed activists' huts based on a new special law for the security of New Tokyo International Airport since last December, the officials said. The hut had been held by the extremist "Chukaku-ha" (Middle Core Faction) since the end of last January.

Police Arrest Seven

OW2003061490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0550 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., March 20 KYODO—Police arrested seven antiairport activists Tuesday in an operation to dismantle two watchtowers built to oppose expansion work at the New Tokyo International Airport. A squad of airport officials is expected to complete the removal Tuesday of a hut at the base of the towers.

Those arrested were members of the extreme leftist group Chukakuha (Middle Core Faction), police said. Occupants of the two-story corrugated-metal and wood structures had thrown firebombs and rocks Monday as airport officials backed by 1,000 riot police using water cannons moved in to demolish the structures.

In Tuesday's operation, police, having placed large steel cages around the upper part of the larger tower, lowered the six occupants into a large hole prepared nearby. About 30 riot officers descended into the hole to arrest the protesters after using high-pressure water cannons to subdue them.

One officer suffered a slight leg injury when the soaked protesters attacked with iron pipes and bars before being taken into custody shortly after 8 AM, police said. A single protester in the remaining tower was arrested some time later.

Members of the Chukakuha group have joined local residents refusing to sell their land in protesting the plans for new runway construction at the airport.

Mongolia

MPRP Central Committee Holds Session 20 Mar

OW2103103390 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee held its regular ninth plenum in Ulaanbaatar Tuesday [20 March]. The plenum discussed amendments to the agenda of the forthcoming April extraordinary party congress and suggestions for consideration at the Eighth Session of the People's Great Hural.

The plenum decided to submit temporary party rules for consideration at the extraordinary party congress.

Draft for Presidential System Published

OW2103112390 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The Tuesday [20 March] issue of the national daily UNEN carried a draft model on the institution of the post of president of the Mongolian People's Republic which is to be supplemented to the Constitution. The draft model says that a Mongolian citizen of 40 to 60 years of age, who permanently lived in the country for not less than five years, can be elected president of the Mongolian People's Republic by general direct, equal, and secret balloting for a five-year term.

Mongolian president will be head of the government and will submit his considerations on forming the cabinet. He will also have the legislative power. Mongolian president will have the full right to represent his country abroad; to sign international agreements having consulted with small hural; appoint or call off Mongolian diplomats; to introduce a state of emergency in Mongolia, if necessary etc., says the draft model.

People's Great Hural Opens Session 21 Mar

OW2103100090 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The Eighth Session of the 11th Convocation of the Mongolian People's Great Hural opens in Ulaanbaatar today on March 21st before the planned time due to the present political situation in the country.

The session will discuss introduction of amendments and changes in the Constitution, draft laws on elections and pensions, the rights of foreign investors, draft laws on some legislative acts.

Agenda Cited

OW2103064190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0558 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 21 KYODO—Mongolia's national legislature opened a key meeting Wednesday to formalize sweeping political reforms initiated by the ruling Communist Party.

High on the agenda of the three-day meeting is deliberation on a proposal to strike out a constitutional guarantee giving exclusive power to the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, as the Communist Party is formally known. The legislature, or the People's Great Hural, is also expected to pass a new electoral law establishing a multiparty system in the world's second oldest communist state. A debate on the introduction of a presidential system through direct election is also on the agenda.

Tserendashiyn Namsray, deputy presidium chairman of the legislature, outlined the proposed package of constitutional amendments in a key-note speech delivered at the opening session Wednesday.

A total of 359 delegates are attending the plenary session of the People's Great Hural, which meets once a year.

The decisionmaking Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party accepted in a meeting Tuesday a decision by former party leader Jambyn Batmonh to resign his post as chairman of the People's Great Hural Presidium, a Mongolian Government source said. The Central Committee also accepted the offer of Dumaagiyn Sodnom to resign from his post as prime minister, the source said.

The party move cleared the way for the legislature to formalize the resignation of Batmonh and Sodnom and name a new state leadership.

Both Batmonh, 64, who serves as the country's head of state as presidium chairman, and Sodnom, 56, resigned last week as members of the Politburo. Batmonh also stepped down as party general secretary.

Opposition Leaders Dissatisfied With MPRP

OW2103111090 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] General coordinator of the Mongolian Democratic Association, Mr. Dzorig, and leader of the Mongolian Democratic Party, Mr. Bat-Ull, held a press conference for Mongolian and foreign journalists after the meeting with the newly elected general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP], Mr. Ochirbat.

Mr. Dzorig said that it becomes clear from this meeting that the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party tried to gain time and initiative during the days after the stopping of hunger strike of our activists by analyzing it was a fruitless and senseless talks. In such circumstances, we had to change our plans, methods, and forms of our activity, said Mr. Dzorig.

Mr. Bat-Ull qualified the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party's position as an attempt to keep new political forces in an unofficial position. And he confirmed his words with the fact that the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party did not agree to submit the law on parties for consideration at the ongoing parliamentary session.

Mr. Dzorig stated that the danger of introducing the state of emergency in the country still exists as the totalitarian regime is in power.

North Korea

Norodom Sihanouk Arrives in Pyongyang 21 Mar

SK2103052490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0500 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the president of Cambodia, arrived in Pyongyang today by special plane to visit our country.

Many people were on hand at the airport at Pyongyang to welcome His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Vice President Yi Chong-ok, Vice Premier Kim Pok-sin, other concerned functionaries, Cambodia's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country, officials of the Cambodian Embassy, and representatives of various foreign missions welcomed His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his entourage.

At the airport, a ceremony welcoming the Cambodian president was held.

KCNA Details Arrival

SK2103105090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Kampuchea, arrived here today by special plane for a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

His Royal Highness and his party were met at the airport by Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Vice-Premier Kim Pok-sin, and officials concerned and warmly welcomed by a large number of people.

Set up at the airport were a portrait of President Kim Il-song and a portrait of His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and slogan-boards reading "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Long live His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Kampuchea!"

Also seen are slogan-boards reading "Warm welcome to His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Kampuchea!" and "Long live friendship and solidarity between Korean and Kampuchean peoples!"

When His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and his party alighted from the plane, the crowds warmly welcomed them, waving bunches of flowers and shouting "Welcome, Sihanouk."

Present at the airport were Son Chhum, Kampuchean ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Korea, and his embassy officials and foreign diplomatic envoys.

A welcome function took place there.

After the national anthems of Kampuchea and Korea were played, His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, accompanied by Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, reviewed a guard of honor of the three services of the Korean People's Army.

His royal highness acknowledged the warm welcome of the crowds.

U.S. 'Eavesdropping' on Communications in ROK

SK2103023690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] According to an article in THE WASHINGTON POST reported by the radio station No. 1 in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists are watching every movement of the puppet clique through eavesdropping on communications in South Korea.

It was learned that such eavesdropping on communications has been carried out through the network of the National Security Agency [NSA] of the United States.

Using U.S. military bases in Osan, Pyongtaek, Taegu and many other places in South Korea as its stronghold, the NSA detachment watches and grasps [chang ak] the movement of the puppet government, the military and ruling and opposition parties by using electronic devices.

It is not the first time that the U.S. imperialists' act of eavesdropping to watch the puppets' movements has been exposed. The U.S. imperialists' eavesdropping was exposed on a large scale in the seventies and raised a great scandal. According to materials revealed at that time, the U.S. masters even installed an eavesdropping device in the office of the puppet president at Chongwadae.

KCNA Decries U.S. 'Bugging'

SK2103043890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists keep watch on every move of the South Korean puppet clique through communication bugging, according to South Korean "radio No. 1" quoting THE WASHINGTON POST. This bugging is undertaken by an agency of the U.S. state security council.

A detachment of the state security council keeps an eye on the movements of the puppet government, the military and ruling and opposition parties with the help of electronic apparatuses at the U.S. military bases in Osan, Pyongtaek, Taegu and other areas of South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists' bugging had been brought to light in the 70s, causing quite a stir. According to data revealed at that time, the U.S. masters installed bugging devices even in the office room of the puppet president at "Chongwadae."

These facts are enough to strip bare the ugly color of the U.S. imperialist aggressors as colonial dominators and the wretched sight of the South Korean puppets as colonial vassals.

Response to Disarmament Talks Proposal Urged

SK2103103090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 21 Mar 90

["Military Equilibrium Must Be Achieved Through Arms Cut—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—Now that it is a trend of the times worldwide to realize military cuts and withdraw troops from others' territories, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets must manifest their readiness to slash their armed forces, if they truly want the relaxation of the tension and peace on the Korean peninsula, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

Noting that now the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are crying for "equilibrium of strength" after inventing fictions about the North's "military predominance" and "threat from the North," the article brands this as a ruse to justify their arms buildup. Military equilibrium on the Korean peninsula must be achieved through arms cut, stresses the article.

It says:

Military equilibrium in Korea is chiefly aimed at removing the actual danger of armed conflict and outbreak of another war between the North and the South.

Hence, military equilibrium must be achieved on the principle of retaining an equal size of armed forces at the minimum level required only for self-defence, with which neither the North nor the South is capable of attacking the other. Less than 100,000 troops are the minimum force required only for self-defence; either in view of the requirements of a modern warfare or in view of the specific conditions of our country, neither side can attack the other with them.

If military cuts are realized to keep the balance of forces between the North and the South at such lowest level and all foreign troops are withdrawn the danger of armed conflict and recurrence of war will be removed and the Korean peninsula will turn into a peace zone.

The disarmament proposal of the DPRK Government for reducing the troops of the North and the South to less than 100,000 and getting the U.S. troops withdrawn from South Korea is winning ever greater sympathy of the world public with every passing day for its reasonable and realistic content.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, however, are scheming to keep the U.S. Forces in South Korea, reinforce their armed forces and "modernize" the puppet army behind the facade of "troop cuts," in disregard of our Republic's disarmament proposal.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry in a recent statement reclarified the DPRK's principled and consistent stand toward disarmament and repeatedly urged them to respond without delay to our proposal for disarmament negotiations involving the North and the South of Korea and the United States.

The United States must show an affirmative response to this proposal of ours and take practical steps for its troop pullout from South Korea.

Transfer of U.S. Missiles to ROK Reported

SK2103044890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists decided to transfer to the South Korean puppets 21 Sparrow missiles and a launching system worth 33 million dollars.

NODONG SINMUN today denounces this as a vicious challenge to our peace efforts and a criminal act aggravating the military confrontation and the tensions on the Korean peninsula.

This reveals again their intention to hasten the modernization of the South Korean puppet army and use it as a shock force for aggression on the North, says the news analyst of the paper, and continues:

The U.S. imperialists' new war provocation moves eloquently prove that their talk about "detente" and "peace" is no more than a lie and hypocrisy. They are now racing headlong along the road of war, not peace and detente. The arms buildup of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is an anti-peace act going against the demand of the times for peace and reunification of Korea.

The U.S. imperialists must stop the reckless arms buildup and military maneuvers against the DPRK and immediately withdraw from South Korea, taking along their nuclear and other mass destruction weapons and aggression forces.

U.S. Introduces B-52 Bombers Into South Korea

SK2003215590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors sent three Guam-based "B-52" strategic bombers to the sky above an operational zone of South Korea to stage a bomb-dropping exercise simulating a nuclear strike at major targets in the central and inland areas of the northern half of Korea from around 12:00 to 17:00 on March 19, according to military sources.

They sent a total of 25 "B-52" strategic bombers to the sky above South Korea in aerial war exercises from March 13 to 19.

And the number of the warplanes of various types including "F-15" and "F-16" fighter-bombers they have let fly in the air above South Korea ran into more than 780 on March 19 alone.

This fully shows that their frenzy for northward invasion has gone to extremes.

South Denounced for Landing Exercise on Highway

SK2003044590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique staged a take-off and landing exercise of "F-16," "F-15" and other types of fighters in two sections including the Chongju-Taein section of Honam Express Highway on March 19 as part of the "Team Spirit 90" joint military manoeuvres, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The U.S. imperialists and their stooges use even express highways as an "emergency airstrip" for the war game. This shows how recklessly they are trying to turn the whole land of South Korea into a large military base for northward invasion.

Daily Dismisses DLP Reshuffle as 'Artifice'

SK2103045490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u group is now making quite a noise as if it would effect a "policy switchover" in future, following up the three-party merger with a "Cabinet shake-up," the appointment of officials of the "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP), the publication of a list of "Party Affairs Council members" and the like.

Hitting out at this, NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today dismisses it as a ridiculous artifice.

Recalling that the DLP confirmed and made public the list of a 45-member "Party Affairs Council," the news analyst says:

What does the composition of the "party's supreme decision-making body" of which the defunct "Democratic Justice Party" (DJP) makes up the majority suggest? It is clear that the DLP is going to pursue the policy of the DJP which orchestrated both the dictatorship of the "Fifth Republic" and the dictatorship of the "Sixth Republic" and to resort more viciously to the military fascist rule against independence, democracy and reunification. This shows once again that the DLP is not anything new which was born of the three-party merger but the very DJP which hung out another signboard after absorbing the two opposition parties, the "Reunification Democratic Party" and the "New Democratic Republican Party."

The No group intends to put down people's resistance by a brutal bayonet rule after readjusting the "new mega-party" and reorganizing the military fascist dictatorial system.

However, things in South Korea will not go as the puppets wish.

Japan's Call for Better Relations 'Ridiculous'

SK2003110690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today hits out at the shameless sophistry of the Japanese reactionaries to shift the blame for the abnormal DPRK-Japan relations on to the DPRK, while pursuing a hostile policy against it.

Noting that this hostile policy is rooted in the U.S. imperialists' strategy against the DPRK and Japan's militarist design for reinvasion, a signed article of the paper analyses its expressions.

One of the typical expressions is their undisguised "two Koreas" plot. At the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, the Japanese reactionaries have long since peddled the wares of "simultaneous entry of the North and the South of Korea into the U.N.," "separate entry of South Korea into the U.N.," "cross recognition" of the North and the South and "peaceful coexistence" of the two parts, in conspiracy with the South Korean puppet clique.

They are now leaving no stone unturned in a bid to help realize the South Korean puppets' divisive "nordpolitik" by actively supporting it.

The Japanese Government authorities are resorting to all sorts of obstructions to block the realization of our fair and aboveboard proposals for the reunification and peace of Korea. They desperately opposed a proposal for tripartite talks made by the DPRK for a fair solution of the Korean question and supported the puppet clique's splittist "proposal for sexangular negotiation" in an attempt to make the Korean question an object of political bargaining and benefit by it at the expense of the national interests of the Korean people.

The Japanese authorities pay lip service to the "improvement of the DPRK-Japan relations," but actually they do otherwise.

They refused to sincerely apologize for the barbarous aggressive crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people while occupying Korea and keep silence about the reparations they should have paid to us.

Worse still, they never cease to reveal their unfriendly attitude toward us.

In the problem of the crewmen of the "Fujisan-Maru No. 18," they persist in their high-handed demand for the return of their seamen who committed spying, while refusing to send back our citizen whom they kidnapped.

The Japanese reactionaries' unfriendly and hostile attitude toward the DPRK finds more grave expression in the fact that they, in collusion with the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, are strengthening the U.S.-Japan-South Korea tripartite military alliance system and threatening us militarily.

Japan has never failed to participate in various war manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists targeted against the DPRK such as "Team Spirit" and "Pacex."

It is ridiculous of the Japanese authorities to cry for "improvement of relations," "promotion of friendly relations" and "dialogue" with the DPRK.

It is shameless of them to call for the "improvement of relations" and "dialogue," while sticking to the unfriendly acts, far from discarding their hostile attitude toward us. It is the method of a robber to urge us to take a "step" first with a "progressive stance."

For Japan to abandon her splittist policy and reinvasion scheme toward Korea is the basic condition for the improvement of the DPRK-Japan relations.

Daily Warns Japan Against 'Militarist Moves'

SK2003102590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA)—If the Japanese reactionaries continue to seek to build a military power and realize overseas expansion, going against the trend of the times, it would only result in precipitating their own destruction, warns MINJU CHOSON today in a signed article entitled "Let Us Heighten Vigilance Against Japanese Reactionaries' Militarist Moves."

Noting that the moves to turn Japan into a military power are becoming all the more pronounced these days, the article says:

The Japanese reactionaries who have revived with the zealous backing of U.S. imperialism are now working overtime to incite the militarist idea on the one hand and are steadily increasing military spendings and putting spurs on the preparations for overseas aggrandizement on the other.

Their militarist moves and stepped-up war preparations pose a grave menace to peace not only on the Korean peninsula but also in Asia and the rest of the world.

Ideological offensive for the revival of militarism is the first process of their militarist moves.

Burying in oblivion the crimes they had committed in their wars of aggression on Korea and other parts of Asia and distorting and fabricating history, they now praise as "heroes" the worst war criminals who had taken the lead in slaughter, plunder and arson in those days.

Now the Japanese reactionary ruling quarters do not hesitate to visit the accursed "Yasukuni shrine" despite denunciation from public opinion at home and abroad.

Their official visits to the "Yasukuni shrine" which is stained with the blood of the victims to their Asian aggression suggest that they not only defend the war criminals but also use it as an ideological stronghold for instilling the ideological poison of militarism and revanchism into the minds of the Japanese people, notably the young.

Publications and propaganda literatures of all kinds run through with the militarist idea are unusually prevalent in Japan these days.

The Japanese reactionaries are also using various anti-communist organizations and right-wing gangsters as a "shock force" in whipping up the militarist idea. Inciting this idea, they are bending efforts on arms buildup to achieve militarization on that basis.

The growth rate of Japan's military spendings is twice that of NATO nations, and the absolute amount of her military expenditure is the third largest in the world.

Aggression armed forces are being reinforced incomparably in Japan on the basis of the stupendous military spendings.

The Japanese "Self-Defence Forces" ("SDF") which came into being as a "police reserve force" under the name of "defence" has now become huge attack-oriented military forces.

As if it were not enough, the Japanese reactionaries are producing larger quantities of sophisticated weapons needed for large-scale offensive operations.

The "SDF" is now trying to give finishing touches to powder-reeking military exercises, war preparations and operations to go overseas.

The Korean peninsula is the first target in the Japanese reactionaries' military adventures.

The strategic intention of the Japanese ruling quarters is to establish military domination over South Korea which is economically dependent on them and, with it as a foothold, to invade our Republic and venture a reinvasion in Asia.

The obtaining situation makes it incumbent upon the peoples in the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world to heighten vigilance against the Japanese reactionaries' militarist moves and resolutely fight against them.

Paper Decries ROK-Japanese Cadet Exchange

SK2003052090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the ever tighter military tie-up between the Japanese reactionaries and the South Korean puppets.

It is illustrated by the finalized "program of exchange of students" the keynote of which is the exchange of ground and air force cadets between the Japanese "Self- Defence Forces" (SDF) and the South Korean puppet army, remarks the news analyst.

Noting that the exchange of cadets is a new step toward the strengthening of direct military cooperation between Japan and South Korea, he says:

This means complying with the demand of the U.S. imperialists' Asian strategy for closing the military ties between Japan and South Korea and rounding off in haste the formation of the U.S.-Japan-South Korea three-way military alliance.

The chief aim sought by the U.S. imperialists in strengthening the Japan-South Korea military tie-up and making haste with the completion of the triangular military alliance is to put the Japanese "SDF" on the forefront as the main force in another war of aggression on Korea.

While building up the combat power of their forces under the hypocritical signboard of "U.S. troop cuts" in the Asian region, they are now pressing for the collusion between the Japanese and South Korean Armed Forces in order to use them as a shock force for their anti-socialist strategy.

In hastening their military infiltration into South Korea the Japanese reactionaries attach great importance to military exchange with the South Korean puppets.

It is because the way has been paved for Japanese military personnel to make lawful inroads into Korea that they now rejoice at the exchange of cadets which has been realized after scores of years. The secret scheme of the Japanese ruling quarters is to drive their combat units massively into South Korea in case of "emergency," taking advantage of it.

The Japan-South Korea exchange of cadets which will lead to aggression must be thwarted.

Party Marks USSR Economic Agreement's Signing

SK2103105790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—The Central Committee [C.C.] of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society gave a film show and a cocktail party today on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the signing of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union.

Present on invitation were Charge d'Affaires ad Interim of the Soviet Embassy here Boris Morozov and other officials of the embassy.

Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song-nam, vice-chairman of the C.C., the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society O Kil-pang and other officials concerned were present on the occasion.

They saw a Soviet film prior to a cocktail party which took place in a friendly atmosphere after exchange of speeches.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Iranian Leader

SK2003105190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on March 18 sent a message of greetings to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Islamic new year.

The message sincerely wishes the president, an intimate friend, good health and happiness as well as prosperity of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Islamic new year.

Daily on Kim Il-song Publication on Fisheries

SK2103103990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a signed article to the tenth anniversary of the publication of the classical work of the great leader President Kim Il-song "Let Us Further Improve the Living Standard of People by Developing Fisheries."

In this historic speech he delivered at a national conference of fishing workers on March 21, 1980, President Kim Il-song reviewed the proud achievements made in the efforts to develop fisheries and clearly indicated tasks and ways for developing fisheries and further enhancing people's livelihood.

The work gives comprehensive answers to questions of principle in the development of fisheries—to supply the people always with delicious and nutrient processed fishes through a vigorous revolution in the processing of fishes, to introduce modernized all-purpose fishing boats and to improve the supply service of fishes.

The work is a highly important guideline which occasioned a radical turn in the efforts to further strengthen the material and technical foundation of fisheries and meet the increasing material needs of the people more satisfactorily, says the article.

Referring to the achievements made over the last decade after the publication of the work, the article stresses: The fisheries of Korea have become a comprehensive and modern sector with a perfect infrastructure ranging from fish catch to culture of sea weeds and fish and the fish processing on the basis of modern technology, and our people are sufficiently supplied with delicious and nutrient marine products, raw and processed, all the year round.

Kim Chong-il's Wise Guidance Noted at Symposium

SK1903070290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0529 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA)—A national symposium on experience of medical workers in their devoted service was held here on March 17 and 18.

It was stressed at the symposium that the devoted service movement was organized and has been invigorated among the medical workers under the wise guidance of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il with the result that a new turn has been effected in their ideological and moral traits and big achievements have been made in their medical service.

The participants said the epics of human love which have become known in our country one after another shows the great superiority of our socialist health care system to which the man-centred chuche idea has been successfully applied and the devoted service of medical workers who have been educated in this idea.

They also stressed that the happiness of the Korean people in enjoying longevity is the result of the wise guidance and deep loving care of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

They called on medical workers to invigorate the devoted service movement with boundless loyalty to the party and the leader and deep communistic human love in the heat of the powerful drive for creating the "speed of the 90s."

Present at the symposium was Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council.

NODONG SINMUN Lauds Socialist System

SK2003123090 Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 6 Mar 90 p 2

[Article by Chon Yong-pok: "The Socialist System of Our Country Is a Popular System That Provides the People With the Position of the Masters of the State"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has elucidated that the socialist system of our country is a popular system that firmly provides the people with the position of masters of the state.

A social system's amount of progressiveness is determined by how it provides the popular masses with the position of masters of the state.

The popular masses are people who are tasked with reforming nature and society, people who create material and spiritual wealth. Because they create all the wealth necessary for social development, the popular masses must become the masters of society as a matter of course. Also, a social system must be built so that the popular masses will become masters and will be provided with the position of masters.

Becoming the masters of society is a fundamental goal of the popular masses' struggle and their age-old earnest desire. Only when the popular masses become the masters of society can they reform nature and society in compliance with their independent demands by highly displaying their creativity and ideologically and culturally freeing themselves.

The socialist system of our country enables the popular masses to brilliantly fulfill their earnest desire to live as masters of society. The most important advantage of the socialist system of our country lies in the fact that it is a popular system that firmly provides the popular masses with the position of masters of the state and society.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught:

"In our country, today, the working popular masses are fully provided with liberties and rights as masters of the state and society, and all social wealth is geared to the promotion of their welfare."

The notion that the popular masses are the masters of the state and society means that they have independent rights, demonstrate all of their creativity, and reform the nature and society in compliance with their independent demands.

All of our people have independent rights and are leading independent and creative lives to their satisfaction. In our society, all the people are provided with equal rights to live independently, and all the social wealth is geared to the promotion of the welfare of the popular masses.

All of our people are keenly aware that they are the masters of the state and consider the struggle to reform nature and society their job. The fact that all of them, with the equal right to live independently, are enjoying independent political, economic, and cultural lives to their satisfaction is the proud feature of our society. Our people have become people who have fulfilled their age-old earnest desire to live as masters of the state and society, and our society has developed into a superior socialist society that firmly provides the popular masses with the position of masters in compliance with the nature of the social system. This is because ours is a society that was built and has developed, guided by the chuche idea, under the correct leadership of the party and the leader.

The social system is the solid system of social relations, and social relations are prescribed by guiding ideology, theory, and method. The socialist system in our country is the social system of chuche under which the chuche-oriented ideology, theory, and method have been embodied. The chuche idea is a man-centered outlook on the world and calls for people to highly display the attitude befitting the masters of the revolution and construction. Our people cherish deep in their hearts the demand to live independently and are highly displaying the attitude befitting the masters because they have adopted the chuche idea as their outlook on the world. Proceeding from their aspiration to completely extricate themselves from the constraints of nature and society and the enslavement to old ideology and culture, our people are advancing, subordinating everything in the society, including the country's sovereignty and means of production, to enhancing the position of the masters. In particular,

our people have maintained the human relations of helping and leading each other based on the collectivist outlook on life and are displaying revolutionary zeal and creative positiveness in the revolution and construction.

The revolutionary theory of chuche elucidates the direction, methods, tactics, and strategies to liberate the popular masses from all forms of constraints and enslavement and to enhance their position as masters. Because our party has embodied the revolutionary theory of chuche, all of our party's lines and policies have been directed toward enhancing the position and role of the popular masses as the masters. Our policies also have been directed at remolding nature and reforming our country's society. This work is being carried out in the direction of enhancing the popular masses' position and role as the masters.

The chuche-oriented leadership method is the mass leadership method that sees to it that the position and role of the popular masses as the masters are enhanced for the implementation of the revolution and construction. Thanks to the embodiment of the chuche-oriented leadership method, all activities of the party and the state have been thoroughly directed toward enhancing the position and role of the popular masses as the masters, and, at the same time, functionaries' work method, as well, has become the revolutionary work method that does away with subjectivism, bureaucratism and that spurs the masses to have voluntariness and initiative.

Ideology, theory, and method are the basic elements that prescribe the progressiveness and people-oriented character of a social system. And our social system has become a superior social system that firmly guarantees the position of the popular masses as the masters because it has embodied the ideology, theory, and method of chuche.

For our socialism to firmly guarantee the position of our popular masses as the masters of our society, it is imperative, first of all, to carry out the politics that agreee with the interests and will of our popular masses. The political system constitutes a basis in the social system, and the progressiveness and people-oriented character of the social system depend on the political system. Politics is the social function that organizes and commands people's activities in a unified way. Society is the group of people. Therefore, the basis of politics is to manage people, and becoming the masters of politics is the basic condition for becoming the masters in society.

To be the masters of politics means to obtain the right to freely participate in the political life of the state and the political system. Under the state's political life and political system, the popular masses become the masters of politics. This means politics are implemented according to the interest and will of the popular masses.

Politics in our country are practiced according to the interests and will of the popular masses. The demands of the popular masses and their interests are the basic essentials of all political activities of the party and state. It is according to the popular masses' demands and according to their interests that the party and state work out policy. At the same time, the party and state ensure that the policy becomes the policy of the masses and is implemented according to their interests.

Our people freely participate in exercising their rights over the power of the state, and all of them live the political life by being accommodated in the social and political systems. The power of the state is the prerogative of political rule and is a basic element in defining the people's social positions. Only by possessing the right over the power of the state is it possible to participate in politics and exercise independent rights. Our people hold the power of the state in their hands and use it as a tool to seek their interests.

If the party is divided or the popular masses are divided, the power of the state cannot defend the interests of the masses.

The popular masses in our country are under the monolithic system of leadership. So, it does not matter how many representatives of theirs are in the organs of power and whether they seize power or not. The organs of power at all levels represent the popular masses. Therefore, the intentions of the popular masses are concentrated and synthesized as one and precisely this becomes policy and, according to this, politics are practiced.

In particular, in our country, the functionaries of the organs of power fulfill their duty and play their role as the faithful servants of the popular masses, rejecting subjectivism and bureaucratism. As a result, the will of the popular masses is given fullest play and is consummated and politics are practiced for the popular masses.

Subjectivism and bureaucratism are an anti-popular method of rule in the countries of the exploitation class. If subjectivism and bureaucratism develop among the functionaries of the organs of state, this will suppress the independent rights of the masses. It also will alienate the organs of power and the masses of the people from one another, and the popular masses will become unable to defend their position as the masters of politics.

Already in those early days when the new society was being built, the great leader stressed the need to overcome bureaucratism by saying that bureaucratism is something against which the party that has seized power should take the most precautions.

In particular, by creating the Chongsan-ri spirit and method and by ensuring their embodiment, he had guidance functionaries go into the masses and unite with them as one by learning from one another, and saw to it that they faithfully played their role as the servants of the people.

The great leader and the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, through their endless tours of on-the-spot-guidance, always listen to the opinions of the popular masses and practice politics according to them. Thus, politics in our country are practiced not only in the assembly hall but

also in the fields of Chongsan-ri and in the black ends of the underground pits of Komdok.

Truly, the politics in our country are the politics administered by the people in the interest of the people and according to the will of the people.

The socialist system of our country firmly ensures that the popular masses enjoy the position as masters of the state and society because the economic system of our country was established in conformity with the independent demand of the popular masses.

The economic system, as well as the political system, shares an important position in the social system. In order for the popular masses to become masters of society, they should become masters of the economy as well as the masters of politics.

To be masters of the economy is to have the right to manage production and to dispose of what has been produced. This is defined by the ownership of the means of production.

The means of production is the material means that defines the management of production and the right to dispose of what has been produced, and it is one of the fundamental factors that define the social position of people. In order to have the position as masters of the economy, they should own the means of production.

In our country, the means of production are owned completely by the popular masses. Our people own the means of production by socializing them in the form of the all-people ownership and the cooperative ownership.

If the means of production were owned by individuals and if the right to use or manage them were placed under the control of individuals, it would give rise to exploitation and a gap between the rich and the poor, resulting in the situation in which the position of the popular masses is infringed upon.

In our country, the private ownership of the means of production is not allowed but it is owned thoroughly by the people, so that it serves the independent material lives of the popular masses, thereby firmly ensuring their position as masters.

The problem of economic management is directly connected with the problem of the position of the masters in the economy. The popular masses can only be said to be the masters of the economy when they highly demonstrate the attitude befitting masters in economic management.

In our country, the rural thesis and the Taean work system are thoroughly applied so as to thoroughly embody the principle of collectivism in the economic management. This also enables the masses to extensively participate in the management of enterprise with a position befitting masters. This disallows arbitrariness, subjectivism, and bureaucratism in economic management, makes the masses highly exert their creative ingenuity, and enhances the working masses' responsibility and role to the maximum degree as masters of production and management.

Truly, the socialism of our country is the people-oriented system that places the popular masses in the position of masters and makes everything serve the purpose of enhancing their position.

The way to solidify and develop the socialism of our country is to strengthen the people's government and thoroughly realize the three revolutions so as to continuously enhance the position of the popular masses as masters.

We will firmly and continuously adhere to the general line of socialist construction to continuously enhance the position of the popular masses as masters and to further add luster to the socialism of our country.

'Innovations' in Salt Production Reported

SK1703041890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—Large quantities of salt are now produced at salines of Korea.

According to data available, the salines under the General Bureau of Salt Industry have produced in 20 days since the start of salt output this year twice as much salt as were turned out in the same period last year.

The Kumsong, Kwangnyangman, Yonbaek and other salines are gathering in far more than a hundred tons of salt every day.

Many of the salt fields turn out an average of 120 tons of salt a year per hectare.

Last year the per hectare output went beyond 160 tons at many workteams of the Kumsong, Kwangnyangman, Namsi, Namyang, Kwisong and Yonbaek salines.

Some time ago, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a message of thanks to the units which effected great innovations in salt production.

South Korea

Kim Yong-sam Arrives in Moscow, Gives Statement

SK2003134590 Seoul YONHAP in English 1316 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Moscow, March 20 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, co-leader of South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), arrived at Sheremetyevo International Airport here Tuesday evening on a week-long visit to the Soviet Union.

In an arrival statement, Kim said he hoped "concrete and substantial" discussions will take place and visible

results will be obtained between Seoul and Moscow during his second Moscow trip.

"I will make every possible effort to see that we have an epoch-making opportunity to make a decisive contribution in bringing about substantial improvements in Soviet-(South) Korean relations with increased understanding and friendship," he said.

Kim also expressed his desire to share wisdom for the purpose of easing tensions on the Korean peninsula and furthering global peace and prosperity by improving the situation in Northeast Asia.

He praised Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroyka" and said "it will contribute significantly to world peace, human prosperity and Korean-Soviet relations."

Kim made the first Soviet visit ever by a leading South Korean politician as a guest of the institute for World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) last June, when he was an opposition leader. He is traveling this time in his capacity as a member of the government party triumvirate as a result of the merger of three parties last month.

Kim flew into Moscow with an 11-member official entourage, including first state minister for political affairs Pak Chol-on, after an overnight stay in Japan during which he met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and opposition leader Takako Doi.

In Moscow through March 27, Kim is scheduled to meet with high-ranking Soviet officials, including Alexander Yakovlev, a Politburo member in charge of external affairs, to discuss ways to promote bilateral political and economic relations.

South Korea and the Soviet Union opened limited diplomatic ties by establishing consular departments inside their trade offices in each other's capital.

The relationship has deepened in recent years owing to Moscow's pursuit of economic cooperation with Seoul and Seoul's reaching out to communist nations under President No Tae-u's diplomatic initiative called "northern policy."

Soviet Head of Consular Department Named

SK2103095190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0903 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 21 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union has named Anatoliy Sirotyuk, a councilor for the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, acting head of its consular department in South Korea, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The Soviet Government notified Korea of the appointment on Monday, the ministry said. The date when Sirotyuk, who was assigned to the chamber from the Foreign Ministry in April last year, will arrive to take up his post here is undecided.

Government Seeks East Bloc Technological Ties

SK2103011090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] The government will promote closer technological ties with East European nations to tide over Western countries' scientific and technological barriers, new Science and Technology Minister Chong Kun-mo said yesterday.

Chong said he was stressing the need for "technology diplomacy" toward the East bloc countries because of the relatively easier access to basic technologies and sciences there.

"We are facing an increasingly higher technological barrier in the West because most of the advanced countries have been closing the doors to key scientific and technological know-how," Chong said.

"The lack of market economy in the East, on the other hand, gives us an easier chance of getting technologies embargoed in the West," the minister told reporters. The U.S.-educated Chong, however, declined to go into details when asked to name the fields of possible cooperation with East European countries, but said:

"We have yet to find out some prospective projects after studying their feasibilities. But I can say we can benefit from the chemical technologies of Poland, for example."

Chong, who took the post of top science administrator in a cabinet reshuffle last weekend, also said he felt the need for "more scientific approaches" toward national development. "There is no doubt national development strategies should be based on a techno-economic approach because economic progress of each country largely depends on its technological standard," he said.

As for the government's research and development (R&D) investment, Chong said it should be considered from the perspective of the nation's total economic system. "One of my first jobs will be to work out a long-term plan for the R&D investment in the government sector in consultations with macroeconomists."

The Science-Technology Ministry has said the government will increase R&D investment from the $3.6 billion in 1988, or 2.1 percent of GNP, to $38.6 billion in 2001, representing 5 percent of GNP.

Turning to the R&D activities of private sector, Chong called for the formation of "joint front lines" among hi-tech businesses.

"I understand the secrecy-minded large companies. But it's not the time for them to be preoccupied with the internal rivalry because it sometimes cost national interest," he said. "Samsung or Daewoo should go beyond regarding each other as a competitor. They will have to compete with Sanyo or Mitsubishi."

The ministry will encourage business companies to work together on specific R&D project and share their technologies. Chong also said he sees a need to link the know-hows of state-run research institutes with the R&D forces of private companies. The ministry said it will set up a network of Korean scientists and engineers working in foreign countries to develop more efficient channels for gathering and disseminating technological information.

Government Preparing for Ties With Romania

SK2103021890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Following the establishment of diplomatic links with Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Korea will push ahead with the normalization of relations with Romania and other socialist and non-aligned countries in Asia and Africa including Mongolia, Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.

The government is preparing for diplomatic relations with Romania, being notified that Bucharest would send a high-powered mission, led by Foreign Minister Mircea Mitrau [name and title as published], to Seoul to discuss the issue on March 28.

It will reaffirm a revised position that the setup of diplomatic ties would entail no prior commitment to financial assistance, a position which it adopted shortly before the signing of the pact with Yugoslavia, but Seoul will exert every effort to enter into ambassadorial relations with Romania, they said.

The government pledged to provide low-rate soft loans amounting to $450 million and $500 million to Hungary and Poland, respectively, when it established diplomatic links with them last year: Bulgaria also asked for financial aid in talks with Seoul last January.

Seoul will also seek contacts with East Germany as the first free elections gave a conservative alliance a victory in the Eastern European country recently.

"It is very likely Korea and East Germany will enter into diplomatic ties soon," one official said, adding that Berlin had earlier sounded out Seoul's stance on its proposal for the opening of trade representatives as a prelude to full relationships.

Besides Easter Europe, efforts will be further made to extend diplomatic relations to Mongolia and some African countries including Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Zambia, according to the officials.

Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, now on a tour of Eastern European countries, rendered the government's wish for ties to the Mongolian ambassador to Yugoslavia at a reception which he threw for envoys accredited to Belgrade on the occasion of the opening of the Korean embassy there Monday evening.

An estimated 1,000 diplomats, Yugoslavian government officials and businessmen attended the function but the ambassadors from the Soviet Union and China were absent despite Seoul's efforts to improve relations with the Communist superpowers, officials accompanying Choe reported to the Foreign Ministry.

Spillover From Japanese TV Causes Concern

SK2103054890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0526 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 21 (YONHAP)—Japanese TV programs are emerging as a diplomatic row between Japan and South Korea, which has accused its neighbor of cultural invasion for allowing the signals from a Japanese satellite to spill over into Korea. The Korean Government raised the issue in working-level talks on bilateral cultural exchange last Friday [16 March] in Tokyo and asked the Japanese Government to take steps to prevent the spill-over, which enables Koreans with satellite dishes to watch NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corp.) television programs, a Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday. Korea called for consultations with Japan on the contents of NHK's programs, saying it was worried they could have a negative impact on Korean viewers due to differences between the two cultures, said the source, who declined to be identified.

Japan rejected the proposal as censorship and said it had no legal right to regulate TV programs, the source said. Japan also contended that the NHK satellite was in full compliance with international radio communications regulations and that any censorship of NHK TV programs would infringe freedom of expression, according to the source. "We don't think the contentions of the Japanese Government are flawed from a legal point of view, but we hope they will seek an amicable solution of the issue and take into consideration our view that the two nations should build a cooperative relationship to exchange healthy culture," it said.

According to unofficial government data, over 150,000 parabolic antennas have been set up in houses or offices to receive satellite signals. The ending of import restrictions on satellite dishes last year fueled their popularity. Japan has two broadcast satellites—BS-2A launched in 1984 and BS-2B launched in February 1986—to extend NHK's coverage nationwide and to give Japanese viewers better reception, but the signals easily reach Korea and China. Many Koreans regard the satellite signals as a cultural invasion and are concerned that Korea, a former Japanese colony, may become dependent upon Japan culturally and economically.

The situation may be worsened when a new satellite channel is allocated to commercial broadcasting, the source said. The private Japan Satellite Broadcasting (JSB) plans to launch BS-3A and BS-3B this year to replace the BS-2 satellites and give one channel over to commercial broadcasting. The Korean Government is worried that the commercial channel, which Koreans will be able to watch from next year, will have an even worse influence on Korean

viewers than NHK because some of the Japanese commercial networks's programs are allegedly decadent and lewd. The cultural invasion will become a two-way street in 1996, when Korea launches its own broadcast satellite, according to the source.

Japanese Political Figure To Visit Pyongyang

SK2103013490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Tokyo (YONHAP)—Former Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Sin Kanemaru said Tuesday that he would go to Pyongyang if the prospects become bright for the release of Japanese crewmen who are now held in north Korea.

In an interview with the SANKEI SHIMBUN, Kanemaru said that he was invited to visit Pyongyang and situations have turned in favor of the release.

He also said that he will support the incumbent cabinet of Toshiki Kaifu until his tenure of office expires in autumn. Shintaro Abe, former foreign minister, is his favorite for next prime minister.

The remarks made by Kanemaru who is an influential figure in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are expected to create a stir in Japan.

Opposition To Wage Struggle Against Government

SK2003021490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] The Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] will mount an intensified street struggle against the government, a spokesman of the opposition party said yesterday.

The struggle will be started with a nationwide campaign to collect signatures from 10 million people March 26, which will be followed by outdoor rallies in Puchon, Kyonggi-to, March 31 and in Taejon April 1. The anti-government street struggles will continue until shortly before an extra session of the National Assembly to be convened in May.

Through the rallies, the PPD will denounce the Jan. 22 merger of three political parties which gave birth to the giant governing Democratic Liberal Party. The decision was made in a meeting of vice presidents which was presided over by PPD president Kim Tae-chung.

Before kicking off the street struggle, the PPD head will hold a news conference this weekend to announce the party's position and its schedule for the struggle. PPD spokesman Kim Tae-sik said, "The signature-gathering campaign is to call for the implementation of local autonomy before the end of June as well as the dissolution of the House for general elections in order to allow the people to give their verdict on the political realignment."

He added, "The rallies in Puchon and Taejon will be held in a peaceful manner."

Spokesman Kim said that no great difficulties stand in the way of holding local council elections before June 30 if the rival parties engage in sincere negotiations on the local parliamentary election laws from now on because the working-level preparations for it have been already made.

Meanwhile, the PPD named vice president Cho Yun-hyong to head a special intra-party committee for the preparation of the local self-rule system in Seoul.

PPD Adopts Open Letter on Local Autonomy

SK2003061190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0553 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (OANA-YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung said Tuesday his Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) will not cooperate in the formation of the leadership lineup of the National Assembly during a special session in May unless the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) implements an agreement on local elections made by the ruling and opposition camps last year.

"The reason we made concessions in such matters as liquidation of the former government's bad legacies and the 1990 government budget in the 'grand compromise' at the Presidential Office Dec. 15, 1989, was to secure some compensation on local autonomy," Kim told reporters at his home.

"However, the DLP is avoiding introduction of the PPD-proposed party recommendation system for local elections because it fears a defeat at the polls," Kim charged.

His PPD has been Korea's only opposition party since the two other opposition parties merged with the ruling party in January to create the DLP, which has an overwhelming majority in the unicameral house.

An open letter recently adopted by the party leadership demands the immediate convening of the assembly to revise the Local Autonomy Law in accordance with the December agreement.

The letter urges the government and DLP to synchronize the local and general elections, implement promises to revise the National Security Law and Law Concerning the Agency for National Security Planning and take steps to solve security and price problems, which directly affect the public.

Cho Se-hyong, chairman of the PPD's Policy Planning Committee, is scheduled to visit Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun and Finance Minister Chong Yong-ui on Friday to ask for emergency action to counter rising rents.

Paper Analyzes Taegu By-Election Campaign

SK2103015890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 90 pp 2, 11

[News analysis by staff reporter Chong Pong-uk: "45,000 Votes Seen Benchmark for Winning Taegu Election"]

[Text] Taegu—Election mood is heating up in an electoral district of this city and the mood is spreading to the whole city, with two weeks to go until a parliamentary by-election scheduled for April 3. Strong rivals in the election are Chong Ho-yong, retired general and President No Tae-u's classmate at the Korea Military Academy; and Mun Hui-kap, who has served No as senior secretary for economic affairs for the past two years.

The suicide attempt by Chong's wife last Friday fueled the distinctive atmosphere common to nearly all elections, attracting more attention from Taegu citizens. The incident was followed by a rally for Mun. More than 3,000 of his supporters thronged to rally last Saturday to demonstrate their confidence in his "landslide victory" in the election. Chong, who was elected in parliamentary elections there two years ago but resigned last January for his alleged role in the bloody crackdown on the Kwangju uprishing in 1980, is running in the election as an independent. In an apparent move to lure Chong to withdraw his proclaimed candidacy, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) nominated Mun as a candidate in the election. Mun has maintained close personal relations with Chong. They attended the same school—Kyungbuk High School.

Chong seems to be confident of victory in the election as he won nearly 53,000 votes in the last election. The figure represents 54.3 percent of valid ballots and compares with 22,234 cast for the runner-up. Political observers say a candidate winning about 45,000 votes will likely be elected in the coming by-election. There are about 131,000 eligible voters in constituency A in Su-gu, Taegu. There is another strong candidate, Paek Song-hong, who was runner-up in the 1988 election. While Chong has a number of solid supporters in the electoral district, Mun is backed by the powerful ruling party. Kim Yong-sam, who was an opposition leader and is now a co-leader of the ruling party, said before leaving for Moscow Monday that he will rush to Taegu for activities to support Mun March 30, the day after his scheduled return from his tour of the Soviet Union.

Acting DLP co-leader Pak Tae-chun, Secretary-General Pak Chon-pyong, floor leader Kim Tong-yong and more than 40 lawmakers attended the Saturday meeting for Mun. Tens of DLP lawmakers are campaigning for Mun now. Despite the DLP's solid backing for Mun, a majority of conservative voters in their 40s or older seem to favor Chong. Voters in that age bracket represent 35.5 percent of eligible voters there. Even a DLP man admits the trend. Yet female voters, who are often emotional, account for nearly 52 percent of the eligible voters. The suicide attempt by Chong's wife is gaining their sympathy.

The ruling party is escalating activities for Mun, whole continuing efforts to persuade Chong to withdraw his candidacy. Kim Yong-sam said Chong will eventually withdraw admitting his apparent defeat in the election. Chong, however, renewed his resolution not to discard his candidacy right after his wife's suicide attempt despite the DLP position. "I am running in this by-election to restore my honor, he said. Chong's persistent position may reflect his rueful feelings toward President No, a longtime friend. They were also classmates at Kyungbuk High School. Anyhow, a showdown between Chong and Mun is inevitable unless Chong gives up his candidacy before election day. The mood in the electoral district will heat up more as the showdown will determine the political futures of the two rivals.

Wife's Suicide Attempt 'Drove' Chong To Run

SK2103020490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u met with Chong Ho-yong Thursday to persuade him into pulling out of the April 3 Taegu by-election, in which Chong is contesting as an independent, a ruling camp source said.

No met privately with Chong on Thursday, the day before Chong's wife attempted suicide, to explain the significance of last month's political realignment and the by-election, calling for Chong to "be reasonable," said the anonymous source.

Chong told No he would "reconsider" his re-election bid but changed his mind later under strong pressure from his wife and close friends and registered his candidacy the next day, the source said.

However, Chong has denied having met No.

Chong, a retired Army general, resigned his National Assembly seat in December because of opposition pressure over his alleged role in the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protest in Kwangju in 1980. He has said that he wants to "restore his honor" by regaining his parliamentary seat.

His wife, Kim Suk-hwan, tried to commit suicide at noon Friday, taking an overdose of barbiturates and slashing her left wrist. She was released from hospital in good condition on Saturday morning after overnight observation.

After meeting with the President, Chong, according to another ruling camp source, delayed registering his candidacy, but his wife's nagging finally drove him to go against the wishes of his life-long friend and fellow former general. He registered at 2 p.m., two hours after his wife attempted suicide.

Agricultural Minister on Handling Market Opening

SK2003020890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Mar 90 p 8

[From the "Figure in Focus" column: "Steps Will Be Taken To Cope With Market Opening Pressure"]

[Text] "I will take positive steps to cope with pressure brought by advanced countries on Korea to open the domestic agricultural market," said Kang Po-song, 60, new agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister, yesterday. He said farmers and fishermen are suffering due to the unstable prices for farm and marine products, the income gap between the urban and rural communities and poor living standards in farming and fishing communities. Kang admitted that their difficulty has been aggravated due to the wider opening of domestic markets for foreign agricultural and fisheries products. "To solve these structural problems plaguing the rural community, I will draw up thorough supplementary measures against import liberalization," he firmly said.

Kang made it clear he intends to improve the structure of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, living environments of rural districts, and increase the income of farmers and fishermen strikingly. He also said that he will make every effort to gradually realize the principle of "farmland possessed by farmers." Based on his experience with the rural community as a lawmaker, he said he will carry out policies to help farmers and fishermen reach a comfortable standard of living. "I will also speed up the execution of off-farm income projects and pay special attention to the marriage problem of rural bachelors," he said.

As a 13th-term lawmaker of the defunct opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), Kang visited the United States and GATT headquarters in Geneva last year to soften foreign pressure to open Korean agricultural markets. Now, he is head of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries committee of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] at the National Assembly. The RDP merged with the then ruling Democratic Justice Party and the third minority opposition New Democratic Republican Party early in February. A native of Sogwipo, Cheju-do island,he graduated from Tankuk University and its graduate school and then served as a political science professor at Cheju University. He was elected as a nonpartisan lawmaker from the Cheju constituency during the 11th term election and joined the now defunct opposition Democratic Korea Party. Kang was also elected as a 13th-term lawmaker of the opposition party headed by Kim Yong-sam from the same constituency after failing in the 12th-term election. It is reported that Kang was strongly supported by DLP chairman Kim Yong-sam to become the agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister for his contributions to the party although no one predicted his appointment.

* Autonomy Law Introduces New Election Climate

902C0111A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 11 Jan 90 p 5

[By Social Affairs Desk Deputy Chief Kim Cha-ung]

[Text] This year marks the second year of the local autonomy system. The local autonomy system, which was halted by the coup of 16 May 1961, has been revived after 29 years.

The revised local autonomy law provides, as the second article passed in the National Assembly at the end of last year, for elections to be held "before 30 June 1990 for the members of the city/province, the city/county and the autonomy districts' governing bodies" and "before 30 June 1991 for the city/ province executives including the mayor, the county magistrate, and the head of the autonomy district office."

Accordingly, direct elections for this year's local national assembly organization and next year's local autonomy chief are certain to be held.

As the effective date of the local autonomy system becomes certain, there is news that election winds have been blowing in each province since the beginning of the new year. After I saw posters with large pictures of faces imprinted along with a meaningless catch phrase such as "(Candidate's name) of democratic consciousness," on the walls of utility poles in the street here and there when I traveled through the country, I was able to realize that the movement for local autonomy elections is already under way. In the country, there is news that the people who aim at a seat in the governing bodies of various jurisdictions are busy letting their "names and faces" be known, using all kinds of methods.

By the way, there is a problem in that not only this year, but every year, nationwide elections will be going on continuously if nothing unforseen happens in the future. Due to the schedule, set up for the election of local leaders this year, followed by the election for the head of local autonomous area next year, the National Assembly election in 1992, and the presidential election in 1993, the situation is such that a nationwide general election will be held every year, straight through for the next four years.

That is not the only thing. Since the terms of local assembly members, the head of the local autonomous areas, and the members of the National Assembly each are exactly four years long, except for the year 1997, a total of 11 nationwide general elections are supposed to be held—one every year until the year 2000. Thus it will be that elections will come and go even as the sun rises and sets every day.

Unlike advanced countries, which hold elections in an orderly fashion through the democratic process, we are only familiar with corrupt elections—glorifying material power and violence, biting and tearing at one another.

Therefore, we cannot help but worry about the nationwide elections which will be held annually in the future.

When I look back on the severely corrupt aspects in the by-elections in east coast cities and in Yongdungpo-ku last year, I can't avoid worrying that this is a big problem. Especially, what about the disruptive influence that elections repeated every year will have on our economy.

President No Tae-u at the news conference following his New Year's address on 10 January was asked about the elections to be held every year: "It worries me when I think back about the conditions in which past elections were held." But he expressed the more or less optimistic opinion that "in the future, a local autonomy election law will be agreed upon by the ruling and opposition parties, and the process of and unfinished business from other election laws will be taken care of. The political fund law will be reviewed, and I anticipate that when we politicians are of one mind and strengthen our attitude and will to provide a just climate—a good and fair climate, quite different from the past, will be established."

As the president said, it is extremely doubtful that based only on the political will, a fair election climate will develop soon. Especially, in negotiations for the local autonomy election law to adjust the number of National Assembly members, the behavior of the ruling and opposition parties, who push and pull at the party-interest and party-strategy level, was like they were pondering how to cook and eat the "choice bite" which is local autonomy. I think that it is hard to avoid the belief that for the politicians to accomplish anything will be difficult. And added to this the election has been turbid because of bad laws?

In the end, the problem of the election climate is up to the people, and the key to solve the problem is within our grasp.

The local autonomy system is really the beginning of "grass roots democracy." Our local autonomy system is the beginning of democracy, not the end. For that reason we have to make the local autonomy system "ours" from the beginning, and be sure it is not forfeited to the "politicians." People have to struggle hard to achieve true democracy.

Whether the local autonomy system succeeds or fails is up to the peoples' willingness to govern themselves and to establish the proper climat for a democratic election. The possibility of failure is very high when we anticipate that everything will be solved once the local autonomy system is put into effect.

In the 1950's, during the local autonomy system elections, there were many cases of the local communities splitting rather than uniting as one. We should not forget the rivalry with which the representatives were elected "from our families" or "from our villages," and that following the elections factional arguments and disruption were severe among the families and between the districts.

The person who is elected through the power of his money may be more interested in recovering the "capital" he invested in the election. If that happens our local autonomy system will be ruined.

* Measures To Reduce Dependence on Foreign Oil

902C0125A Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 23 Jan 90 p 4

[Article by No Sam-sok: "Contingency Plans for a 'Third Oil Shock' an Urgent Need"]

[Text] As the oil consumption continues to rise at a sharply high rate every year, it is anticipated that the reliance on oil will surpass the 50 percent level some time this year.

At a time when we frequently hear warnings that there will be a "third oil shock" in the 1990's, the increasing reliance on oil cannot but be a matter of concern because the shock wave from another oil crunch would spread that much wider.

Especially, as a result of the stable oil prices that have continued for some time now, people are less sensitive to the likelihood of an oil crunch, spawning fears that a crunch—if it should come—would trigger a shock far more severe than anticipated.

According to a forecast by the Ministry of Energy Resources [MER], the nation's oil consumption this year will reach 334.385 million barrels, an increase by 16.4 percent over last year.

As a result, the reliance on oil compared to other energy sources, which reached 49.6 percent last year, is expected to gain 3.7 percent and reach 53.3 percent this year.

This compares to 51.3 percent in 1972 and 53.8 percent in 1973, the years of the first oil shock.

Korea's oil reliance peaked at 63.3 percent in 1978 immediately before we were dealt another heavy blow from the second oil crunch.

As a result of the increased oil-first and coal-second consumption pattern, the 1979 oil shock wrought havoc on the nation's economy. It had a chilling effect on the people's livelihood too, creating considerable difficulties.

This prompted the government to launch a campaign to restructure the nation's oil consumption to a coal-first and oil-second pattern.

As a result, the reliance rate fell from 61.1 percent in 1980 to 58.1 percent in 1981, to 51.8 percent in 1984, and further to 48.2 percent in 1985, moving into the 40-50 percentile for the first time in 15 years.

Even after that, the downward trend continued, the rate registering 46.4 percent in 1986, and 43.7 percent in 1987, equivalent to the 1969 level.

However, as the shock faded and the heat of the Seoul Olympics took over, the oil reliance rate climbed back again to 47 percent in 1988 and to 49.6 percent in 1989.

In MER's view, from this year through 1994, as living standards rise and industry grows, the domestic oil consumption will increase at an average annual rate as high as 11.7 percent.

It is thus anticipated that the oil consumption will mark a much higher rate than the projected growth of the GNP and the manufacturing industry, which are 7.3 percent and 9.4 percent respectively.

It is expected that the consumption of domestically produced anthracite coal will, under the pressure of oil, continue to fall drastically.

The anthracite coal consumption registered 22.796 million tons in 1989, a decline by as much as 12.8 percent from the previous year. It is expected to fall further to 20.099 tons this year, 11.8 percent down from 1989.

Therefore, if the reliance on oil grows to 53.3 percent in 1990 as predicted, the upward trend is likely to gain momentum.

While the domestic energy consumption is thus shifting to a pattern centering on oil, the international oil markets are showing ominous signs, prompting observations which stress an urgent need for measures to cope with the situation.

Oil experts maintain that "it is highly possible that another oil crisis will come in the mid-1990's," and they warn of the need for being prepared for a third oil shock.

Yi Hoe-song, director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, said: "International crude prices, after a period of a persistent upward trend, will likely show a steep climb in 1993 or so." There is a need, he stressed, for policy consideration to structurally diversify the nation's energy consumption.

In order to reduce the reliance on oil, it is necessary to establish a system which promotes the use of coal and gas.

We hear growing voices that the government should change its focus from getting uneconomical coal mines closed down to seeking to formulate measures to increase consumption efficiency so as to promote wide use of domestically available energy sources.

Furthermore, some note that the LNG [liquefied natural gas] supply network should be expanded more rapidly and efforts should be made for basic structural change to facilitate use of LNG not only for heat and cooking but for industrial purposes as well.

With this in mind, MER plans to launch a project for a nationwide LNG supply network this year; however, in view of the increasingly visible signs of another oil crunch, it apparently should make an effort to speed up such an undertaking.

Especially, at a time when air pollution has become a serious issue in connection with the use of oil and coal, popularization of LNG is seen, in addition, as a task that should be pushed positively, for the sake of an expanded clean energy supply.

Considering the fact that our country produces not a single drop of oil, an energy consumption structure which relies mainly on oil means a precarious life constantly exposed to danger.

Now is the time to keep an eye on the growing reliance on oil and be prepared for another crisis, and concerned about diversifying energy consumption.

Burma

17 Rohinja Insurgents Surrender in Maungdaw

BK2103070390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Members of an insurgent organization who have realized their wrongdoings have surrendered to security organizations with their arms and ammunition. At 0230 local time on 2 March 1990, 17 members led by (Abdul Gawyon) from the RLO [Rohinja Liberation Organization] insurgent organization surrendered at the frontline office of No. 2 People's Police Force in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State. [passage omitted] The insurgents brought along one M-20 pistol, nine rifles, two BA-63 assault rifles, one carbine, two A-1 M-1's, two Sten guns, one light machine gun, 43 magazines, and 775 rounds of assorted ammunition. The insurgents who surrendered were given a warm welcome by the authorities.

Fire in Tamwe Burns Over 750 Homes 20 Mar

BK2103064790 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0430 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] A fire broke out at 1842 local time last night at the house of U Tha Hlaing, No. 4, Hninzi Street, Zabuthiri Ward, Tamwe Township and was put under control at 2025 in the evening. Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, chairman of Yangon [Rangoon] Division Law and Order Restoration Council and Yangon Military Command commander; divisional commanders; the provost marshal; Colonel Ko Lay, chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee and mayor; regional commanders; tactical commander of the Yangon Military Command; and responsible officials came to the scene of the fire and made the necessary arrangements for assistance.

The fire spread from Zabuthiri Ward to Myitta Nyunt Ward and then to Kamahtan Street, Kawi Ponnya Street, Waikza Street, Ananda Gonyi Street, Shwe War Street, Wunna Theingi Street, Kheima Thiri Street, Myat Lay Yon Street, and Thu Damasari Street. The fire burned down 513 homes and made 2,767 persons homeless in Myitta Nyunt Ward. It also burned over 250 homes, one monastery, one preaching hall, and a basic consumers cooperative shop and made over 1,200 homeless in Zabuthiri Ward.

Regional Commander Meets Leaders in Kokang

BK1603102490 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Brigadier General Maung Thint, commander of Northeast Military Command and chairman of Northern Shan State Regional Committee for Development of Ethnic Nationals and Border Areas, accompanied by Colonel Kyaw Than, commander of the 99th Light Infantry Division; Lieutenant Colonel Nyo Thein, acting commander of 991st Tactical Operations; and members of that regional committee inspected border region development work in Kokang area from 9 to 12 March.

At 1530 on 9 March, Commander Brig. Gen. Maung Thint and members of his party had a meeting with members of the Kunlong Township working committee at the 3d Kachin Rifles Regiment and discussed the progress of border region development work. Necessary guidance was given by the commander. At 1635, the commander inspected the petroleum products shop, oil reservoirs, the township sports ground, the telephone exchange office and housing quarters for that office staff, the Mya Thanlwin Park, the Irrigation Office building, and the construction of the tractor base camp of the Mechanized Agriculture Department. At 0700 on 10 March, the commander inspected construction of a bridge across the (Nam Kai) creek and gave necessary advice. At 1115, the commander discussed the continuing development work in Kokang region with the leaders of the Kokang nationals. Later, together with the Kokang national leaders, the commander and his party inspected the construction of a hospital, the site where a sports ground will be built, the progress of (Nam Kai-Shwepan) dam construction project, and the [words indistinct] plantation.

On 11 March, the commander met with the local leaders and discussed work programs to be carried out to strengthen regional security and develop the border region. At 1015, the commander attended a celebration to mark the second anniversary of Kokang nationals' driving out the BCP [Burma Communist Party]. Speaking on the occasion, the commander said he was happy to meet the local people from the Kokang border region at such a gathering. Today marks the second anniversary of the Wa people driving out the BCP. The BCP had for more than 20 years repressed the honest and peaceful local people of the Wa region and this had led to backwardness in the border areas. Not only was the BCP engaged in an armed rebellion but was also the worst perpetrator of destruction. He said the local people's driving out the BCP destructionists from their region was doing what should have been done in a correct and courageous manner. Border development work is being accelerated in the areas where the BCP no longer exists. National unity is very important, he said, and he called on the people to cooperate with the government to ensure development of the region and safeguard national independence. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Hun Sen Makes Inspection Tour, Speaks on Peace

BK2103072590 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0148 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 20 Mar (SPK)—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia, recently made an inspection tour in the northwestern region of the country.

On 14 March, Chairman Hun Sen, also member of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, took Road 69 to Svay Chek, one of localities savagely destroyed by the three reactionary Khmer groups and recaptured in February by the Armed Forces of Banteay Meanchey Province.

He arrived on 17 March at the Armed Forces Headquarters at Treng in the district of Ratanamondol, Battambang Province, and on the same day visited military units positioned along the western border in the district of Phnum Kravanh, Pursat Province.

Wherever he went, Chairman Hun Sen wished the combatants good health and new successes. He particularly stressed the goodwill of the State of Cambodia to bring an immediate end to the war. However, he said, far from positively responding to this act of goodwill, the three reactionary Khmer groups, especially the Polpotists, have intensified their hostilities against the Cambodian people and have inflicted heavy losses in property and human lives. He said that the State of Cambodia has unilaterally given proof of its goodwill in the settlement of the problem. One of the testimonies of this goodwill was the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops in September 1989.

Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen vigorously condemned the international conspiracy in continuing to supply military aid to the three Khmer opposition groups.

He called on the Armed Forces to continue the struggle to defend the security of the population.

Hun Sen stressed that a political solution to the Cambodian problem will not be found if aid to the Khmer opposition factions is continued and the Pol Pot clique is allowed to enjoy the right to veto.

He reiterated his determination not to sign any agreement that does not stipulate the non-return of the genocidal Pol Pot clique. The Cambodian leader greeted the initiative on neutral Cambodian refugee camps along the Cambodian-Thai border placing them under the control of international humanitarian organizations.

He also declared that he favorably welcomed the decision of [word indistinct] to support this idea of Thailand.

Men Sam-an Visits Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey

BK2003072390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] On 17 March, a party-state delegation led by Female Comrade Men Sam-an, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Central Organization Commission, went to Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province to visit cadres, combatants, and people. Accompanying her were Female Comrade Mean Sam-an, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Cambodian Women's Association and Female Comrade Ho Non, member of the party Central Committee and minister of industry.

During her three-day visit, Female Comrade Men Sam-an met and had cordial talks with provincial party and people's committees. She also visited and presented gifts such as sarongs, scarves, cigarettes, and radios, to cadres and personnel in Siem Reap District and to families of fallen and disabled combatants and those who had served the nation well. She also visited Ba Kong Temple in Ba Kong Commune and attended a ceremony organized by the Central Organization Commission in cooperation with leading officials of various central ministries and departments and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, to raise funds for repairing Tep Pranom, Khna Krau, Preah Sei-a, and Anlung Tramaol monasteries ruined 11 years ago by the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique. Over 800,000 riels were raised at this ceremony. Mrs. Men Sam-an returned safely to Phnom Penh on the afternoon of 19 March.

Enemy Casualties Reported in Banteay Meanchey

BK2103045590 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 20—In the first two months of this year, the Cambodian Government forces killed 48 enemy troops, wounded 25, captured three and forced five others to surrender in Bos Sbov Commune, Banteay Meanchey Province, 850 km northwest of Phnom Penh.

They seized 35 guns of various calibers and a good quantity of other war means.

Heng Samrin Greets Gorbachev on Election

BK2003061590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia, has sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on his election as president of the Soviet Union. The message noted:

The just, fair, and democratic election of the comrade to Soviet Union's top position clearly attests the Soviet people's unanimous confidence in you. You have made every effort to carry out the policies put forth at the April 1985 CPSU Central Committee's session, and particularly the policies of glasnost and perestroyka. In this new and noble position, the comrade will be more capable of surmounting all difficulties for the sake of your beloved motherland's prosperity. I am convinced that under your splendid, wise, and courageous leadership, the Soviet people will achieve even greater victories in building a society which is advanced, prosperous, and glorious, and will maintain their major role as the protector of peace for mankind.

The Cambodian party, government, and people have always been grateful to the Soviet party, government, and people who have supported and helped us morally

and materially in the defense and construction of the Cambodian motherland. In particular, we are grateful for their unswerving support of the Cambodian people's just struggle to seek a political solution to the Cambodian problem in line with the national reconciliation policy for the sake of regional peace, stability, and cooperation. I note with satisfaction that the bonds of militant solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between our two parties, governments, and peoples have constantly strengthened and developed.

Sihanouk Speaks on FUNCINPEC Anniversary

BK2103100390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Message by Norodom Sihanouk on the ninth anniversary, 21 March, of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, date not given—recorded]

[Text] I, Samdech Euv, Norodom Sihanouk, would like to send this special message to my beloved and greatly missed children, compatriots, namely members of the Sihanoukist National Army [ANS] and members of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, FUNCINPEC.

Please be informed that I have decided with great pride that from 23 February, last month, this year, 1990, Samdech Euv, that is I, Norodom Sihanouk, will stay close to our people in our country, on our soil, and share life with you in liberated zones. My house is in Oddar Meanchey Province. I have a house in our beloved Oddar Meanchey Province, in the forest on the side of a mountain. Near my house is an ANS hospital to treat children who are wounded in fighting for national liberation and to care for people and compatriots, children of Samdech Euv, living in rural and remote areas. Competent doctors of the ANS [preceding term said in French], have been working hard with nurses to serve you day and night, including those who are seriously or lightly wounded in fighting the enemy to liberate our nation from the grip of Vietnam, the aggressor and colonialist, and those compatriots who are seriously or mildly sick and rely on Samdech Euv's doctors.

Near my house is a village of about 700 people, including men and women, old and young. In this village, there are schools and a handicraft shop—achievements of Prince Ranariddh, Samdech Euv's royal representative, and Princess Marie, my daughter-in-law. These two, husband and wife, have made efforts to build schools for our youths in the village and a small handicraft shop to support the people and compatriots living in the village. My house and the hospital are located within a perimeter I call Sereipheap village. This means we love independence and freedom and do not want to be slaves to anyone. This is why we, nationalists, should struggle until the Vietnamese colonialists return the territory they are daily annexing; this is Cambodian territory along the border, which they have modified to Vietnam's benefits through the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime. This regime has sold independence, territory, and the country to Vietnam. We have to fight to win back freedom. This is why my village is named Sereipheap.

I would like to take this fine opportunity to express my satisfaction, best wishes, and warm admiration to our FUNCINPEC, our party whose official name is National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia. Cooperative means that we closely cooperate with other nationalists and other parties because we, FUNCINPEC, respect genuine democratic rules, namely those of liberal democracy. We do not have only a national party, that is the party of those who support Samdech Euv, love the throne, are loyal to their king, and firmly believe in following Samdech Euv and the good leadership of our previous kings and queens; they believe this has brought happiness, independence, territorial integrity, peace, freedom, development, and progress. This was the case in our Sangkom Reas Niyom when we built and developed the nation in every field rather than going backward with indescribable hardship as in the Pol Pot era, and later on, in the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen era and Vietnam's colonialist era. We went downhill after we became a republic.

I am not saying that now our nation should revert to a monarcy [preceeding word said in French]. To avoid a split among us, I agree to go along with a republican regime. Although the majority of Cambodians firmly believe that only a monarchy [preceding word said in both Cambodian and French] can provide independence, great honor, and prestige on an equal footing with superpowers in the world, such as during the Samdech Euv's era, that of the Sangkom Reas Niyom, when we were on an equal footing with the France of General Charles De Gaulle [preceding name and title said in both Cambodian and French], with the Yugoslavia of Yugoslav hero Josip Broz Tito, Marshal Tito, and with Russia, the Soviet Union, the United States, and other superpowers throughout the world. Although our country is small, we were not below any countries due to our policy of self-reliance, or Cambodia's reliance on itself to build and develop the nation without being anyone's satellite.

You, children of the previous generation, clearly remember the prestige of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Despite this, I do not want to return to a monarchy. We will go along with a republic. It is because of our bad fate that it must be a republic; this is to save us from being split. The Khmer Rouge—the Pol Pot group, the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen group, and the front of Son Sann and Sak Sutsakhan all want a republic. It is already bad enough fighting against the Vietnamese; we can do without fighting between royalists and republicans, which would cause our nation more suffering. Therefore, I, and all of us genuine nationalists, do not want the split; that is why we have decided to go along with a republic, but on the model of the French Republic which gives true freedom to the people in every field and not a dictatorship as during Pol Pot's time or that of Heng Samrin-Hun Sen. We will be like France's Fifth Republic [preceding two words said in French].

On this occasion, I would like to inform you that we are celebrating the ninth anniversary of our party, our front, that is the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, FUNCINPEC in French. We have set it up along with ANS, the Sihanoukist National Army, in 1981 to serve and defend the nation and motherland, fight against the Vietnamese enemy, and liberate our nation from the grip of Vietnam's colonialism.

For this reason, we set up our FUNCINPEC and ANS in 1981 on 21 March. Thus, on 21 March, children in and outside the country mark the ninth anniversary of our FUNCINPEC. For this reason, I take this opportunity to send you, children, this message to express my satisfaction with all of you who are loyal to the FUNCINPEC ideals, namely to respect our people, who are masters of the land, and provide them the power to freely and secretly vote under genuine UN supervision. It is up to the people to elect the head of state, people's representatives, and the constitution once the Cambodian problem has been resolved. This is why our previous party was named Sangkom Reas Niyom and why we favor the people and serve the people. The people are the ones who decide; we do what the people want and need. What the people decide, we follow. Our FUNCINPEC is like Sangkom Reas Niyom. We should strive to provide our people with happiness, peace, independence, and freedom to decide their destiny and that of Cambodia. This is the essence of our new Sangkom named FUNCINPEC.

Children, please be informed. In and outside the country, the spirit of our FUNCINPEC members is good. We are united and cooperate well. First of all, I would like to say I am very satisfied with you. Our FUNCINPEC branches continue to develop in our country—such as in Kompong Thom, Battambang, Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey—in the Kingdom of Thailand, and at Site B. Outside, there are many branches that are developing, such as in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, and noncommunist European countries. There are also students and youths, sent by Heng Samrin, Hun Sen, and Vietnam to study in communist Europe, who have now defected and joined our FUNCINPEC. This is a fine development.

Secondly, I would like to express thanks to you, children living abroad, who have sent your meager resources to help our army and those who become disabled for valiantly and heroically fighting to liberate our nation and children. Previously, assistance was provided only to those at Site B. Now, you have also sent money to assist those in liberated zones. I would like to inform you that your money was spent to benefit 100 percent our combatants, people, and compatriots in liberated zones. I recently met with the hospital staff in Sereipheap village. Many disabled people, men and women, young and old, were given money, including doctors, nurses, and cooks.

My wife and I presented your money to our compatriots. What our Sangkom Reas Niyom did in the past our FUNCINPEC now continues. No money has been lost. The people benefit from it 100 percent. Notices have been printed and distributed to people for information. Apart from this, I have nothing new to add. You are all aware of the Cambodian problem. Before I went to live permanently in the liberated zones, I met with our FUNCINPEC members from various branches in the United States, Canada, some European countries, Australia, and others. I also reported to them and answered their questions. Thus, you already know everything. I only sent you this message to let you know that every day I think of you and call on children in the grip of the Vietnamese, Hun Sen, and Heng Samrin, to be careful not to be duped by Vietnam and the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin regime. If you work for them, it means you serve Vietnam's colonialism. We have already lost Cochinchina and Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of south Vietnam]; we should not lose present-day Cambodia.

Vietnam has annexed a lot of our territory. Hun Sen and Heng Samrin have signed treaties with Vietnam changing much of our border, losing thousands of square kilometers of our territory on land, along the coast, and our islands. Villages have been given Vietnamese names. In some places, even in Phnom Penh, there are many Vietnamese. In Neak Luong, which is closer to us, let alone Svay Rieng, a lot of our territory has been annexed. Territory in Chantrea and the Parrot's Beak area has already been given to Vietnam. The population has been changed; the majority of the people in those areas are Vietnamese, and we have become a minority. Many of our villages and much of our territory have been incorporated into Vietnam. Canals have been dug to serve as borders. In Kampot and Svay Rieng, canals are being dug to serve as new borders. We have lost a lot of land this way because these canals are deep inside our territory. Cambodian territory on the other side of the canal has been combined with Vietnam. The regime in the country is a genuine communist regime, that of Ho Chi Minh, according to which Laos and Cambodia should be Vietnam's slaves in the so-called Indochinese federation comprising three states, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. In fact, there is only one state, Vietnam, with Laos and Cambodia as satellites and not as independent states. Vietnam has already annexed a lot of territory from these two countries. Vietnamese nationals have been sent to plunder our resources.

Therefore, I call on compatriots who are in the grip of Vietnam and the regime serving the Vietnamese, that is the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime, to be careful not to serve the regime traitor to the nation and the Vietnamese, who are not our friends at all. The Vietnamese claim they have come to liberate us from Pol Pot's grip, but this is not so. They come only to annex our territory. This is why we must strive to fight and liberate our nation and restore our land and maritime borders to the time when we were glorious, that is in the era of Samdech Euv and the Sangkom Reas Niyom before the coup by Lon Nol before 1970. This is the end of my message. I pray and wish all the best to you and pay respect to our most revered and beloved clergy and religion.

May all of you, children, the clergy, and compatriots who are nationalists enjoy the five Buddhist blessings of longevity, social standing, good health, energy, and happiness.

Long live independent Cambodia!
Long live FUNCINPEC!
Long live the ANS!

Resistance Comments on Plan for Neutral Camp

BK2003012790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] The setting-up of a neutral camp for displaced Cambodians will strengthen the hand of Phnom Penh and work against a comprehensive settlement to the Cambodian conflict, a resistance source claimed yesterday. "A neutral camp would only strengthen the bargaining power of Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and be more favourable to a step-by-step, rather than a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian conflict," the source said. The remark came amid reservations reiterated by the non-communist resistance to Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's neutral camp proposal as a special government committee held its discussion of the plan.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] said the proposed setting-up of a neutral camp could lead to a forced separation of displaced Cambodians from international assistance. "The proposal to set up a neutral camp will not help push forward the peace process, but will certainly give more excuses to those on the battlefield to fight more fiercely and to force one part of our compatriots away from international humanitarian workers," he said. The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), for its part, "feels a neutral camp is not necessary for the time being because we are already under the United Nations and Thai authorities," a spokesman said. "We are not against the idea of a neutral camp, but it should be set up when conditions are right for a repatriation, that is when a comprehensive settlement has been reached," he said.

An agreement at the Paris International Conference on Cambodia last August provided for the UN to organise the repatriation of displaced Cambodians—on a voluntary basis and in conditions of safety and dignity—in the context of a comprehensive settlement. At present, camp administrators loyal to the resistance groups can "control" their population's movements, one source said. But in a neutral camp, displaced Cambodians might make independent repatriation arrangements "with the other side" or with UN authorities, he said. The source admitted the resistance groups would lose some "political leverage" and influence over the displaced Cambodians. But he maintained that a neutral camp could not avoid people expressing their political ideas. The source dismissed a widespread belief that a neutral camp would undercut a source for recruitment of resistance armies. "Our best fighters are not in the camps but inside Cambodia," he said.

Prince Ranariddh, in a written statement, warned of the practical difficulties of moving hundreds of thousands of displaced Cambodians to a new camp and urged detailed planning of the administrative structure. He also noted the move would disrupt the community structure and services like medical treatment, education, markets and correspondence with relatives living overseas. The resistance groups now administer a total of six camps along the border with UN assistance. Latest estimates from the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) put the total border population at 275,190, with the KPNLF running the largest camp of Site 2, where there are 150,350 Cambodians.

8 Trucks Reported Ambushed in Preah Vihear

BK2003022590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] On 14 March, eight trucks of the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets moving from Preah Vihear to Kompong Thom Province were ambushed and set ablaze at Rumchek by our Cambodian national resistance forces. We killed 10 Vietnamese enemies and their puppets and wounded 15 others. We destroyed two B-40's, a B-41, and an M-79, and seized five AK's, a pistol, and some ammunition and war material.

VONADK Reports 270 SRV Troops Sent

BK2103013390 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] On 16 March, the Vietnamese Hanoi aggressors sent 270 fresh Vietnamese troops and two tanks from Vietnam through Route 19 along the Mekong River to Stung Treng Province and later trucked them via Chhep to the station in Preah Vihear provincial seat. All these Vietnamese troops wore puppet soldiers' uniforms.

VODK on Hun Sen Remarks on Nicaraguan Polls

BK1703102590 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Station commentary: "It Is Not Possible for Vietnam To Compare the Situations in Nicaragua and Other Countries With the Situation in Cambodia Which Is Being Subject to the Invasion and Occupation by Hundreds of Thousands of Vietnamese Troops"]

[Text] Obeying the order of his Vietnamese boss, Hun Sen—the blind, cheap lackey puppet—recently said that, prior to the elections in Cambodia, his regime does not need dissolution. The elections could so be organized because, as in the cases of Nicaragua and other countries, the opposition groups were still able to win elections. People hold that it is no longer possible for Vietnam and its puppet to play dirty tricks. The events in Cambodia and Nicaragua are totally different. They are unrelated because:

1. The Nicaraguan Government is not a foreign-installed government like the Phnom Penh puppet regime which was created by over 200,000 Vietnamese aggressor troops. Some 50,000 Vietnamese officials are currently administering Cambodia's state affairs from top to bottom within the regime. Truly speaking, the Phnom Penh regime is totally a regime belonging to the Vietnamese aggressors. The traitorous puppet officials propped up by the Vietnamese are nothing but a trademark covering up Vietnam's act of aggression against and occupation of Cambodia.
2. There are no foreign aggressor troops and settlers in Nicaragua as in Cambodia.

In Cambodia:

1. Over 100,000 regular Vietnamese troops, including more than 30,000 disguised soldiers, are mixed into the puppets forces, while tens of thousands of others pretend to be Cambodian civilians for the purpose of controlling and supervising the puppet administration behind the puppet district and provincial officials. Moreover, tens of thousands of troops wearing the puppet army uniforms are in hiding in Cambodia's jungles.
2. More than 1 million Vietnamese settlers, including over 60,000 armed militiamen and a great many intelligence agents and subversive experts, are in Cambodia. Those settlers have already been granted Cambodian citizenship by the Vietnamese administration in Cambodia through the puppet regime. This is to give settlers the rights to vote and to have functions in the puppet administration. That being the case, it is absolutely impossible to compare the situations in Nicaragua and in other countries with the situation in Cambodia which is being subject to hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese forces' invasion and occupation. Free and fair elections in Cambodia will not be possible unless:

1. All Vietnamese aggressor troops together with all categories of other Vietnamese forces, including over 1 million Vietnamese settlers, are removed from Cambodia under effective control and supervision by the United Nations with the participation of the four Cambodian parties.
2. The Vietnamese-installed civilian and military puppet regime is dissolved at all levels, clearing the way for the establishment of a provisional equal quadripartite government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Indonesia

Perception of Threat From North Said 'Outdated'

BK2003111790 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 16 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Jakarta, Thursday [15 March] MERDEKA/ANTARA—The perception that a threat from the north exists must be removed because it is an old and outdated perception.

The coordinating minister for politics and security said this in reply to questions from newsmen soon after receiving Vietnamese Ambassador Tran Huy Chuong at the Office of the Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security in Jakarta.

Sudomo said further that this perception that a threat from the north exists should be removed because Japan, Vietnam, and probably China, in reality, could not easily attack Indonesia. Moreover, the democratization process in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has at least led to demilitarization and deideologization. "The perception about the existence of a threat from the north is an old perception. This perception is already outdated," he said convincingly.

According to Sudomo, glasnost and perestroyka led to the emergence of the concepts of demilitarization and deideologization. Demilitarization means military forces are no longer used to attack other countries, and also infers noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. "Deideologization means that there are no longer ideological exports, as in the past," he said.

Sudomo said that the perception of a threat from the north is motivated by past experiences with Japan, even though this is no longer the case. In the meantime, Japanese hegemony over the world economy should not become a source of worry because this is not dangerous.

Sudomo said that by becoming a world economic power, Japan has in fact created problems for itself, such as high wages and high production costs. In this regard, he felt that Indonesia could take great advantage of Japan's difficulties by offering lower wages and costs. "This means that it would be better for Japan to invest in Indonesia. They can reexport goods processed here, to Japan," he said.

Regarding Vietnam and the PRC, which are also situated to the north of Indonesia, the coordinating minister for politics and security stressed that these two countries are not enemies of Indonesia. "The fact that Vietnam and the PRC are communist does not mean that they are enemies of Indonesia," he said.

According to Sudomo, even though the implications of glasnost and perestroyka have yet to change the situation in the PRC, this does not mean that the PRC poses a threat to Indonesia. "However, we must continue to be vigilant. We must wait and see if glasnost and perestroyka, as well as the democratization of Eastern Europe, take form in the PRC, North Korea, Cuba, and Vietnam, which continue to hold out," he said.

According to Sudomo, the possibility of the PRC not being affected by the democratization of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe will not affect the normalization of Indonesian-PRC relations because Indonesia adheres to the principles of good-neighborliness.

Team Leaves for Beijing To Discuss Debt Problem

BK2103102290 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0936 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 21 (OANA/ANTARA)—An Indonesian team of three senior officials Wednesday [21 March] left for Beijing to settle the problem of Indonesian debt to China as part of negotiations for the reopening of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Yusuf Anwar, director of foreign funds at the Ministry of Finance, is one of the members of the team which will be in Beijing for about three days to discuss technical matters concerning the debt, officials at the Finance Ministry said. The other two members represent the Foreign Ministry and the Central Bank, Bank Indonesia.

The team is returning the visit made by a Chinese team led by Assistant Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin to Jakarta in December last year.

During their visit, the Chinese team claimed that Indonesia's debt to China up to the time diplomatic relations between the two countries was cut off in 1965 amounted to 50 million U.S. dollars. The Indonesian side claimed it was less.

Diplomatic relations between Indonesia and China were severed following an aborted coup attempt by the now-banned Communist Party of Indonesia.

Minister on Tentative Date of Satellite Launch

BK2003135490 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1309 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Mar 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Palapa B-2R satellite, which will support Indonesia's domestic telecommunication system, will most probably be launched before mid-April, between April 9 and 12, Minister of Tourism, Posts, and Telecomunication Susilo Sudarman said to the press after his meeting with President Suharto at Bina Graha [Presidential Office] here on Tuesday [20 March].

The problem is that before the B-2R satellite, several other satellites, mainly for defence and security needs, have to be launched, he said, adding that everything which has to do with the last preparations of the B-2R launching, will be reported from the USA on March 22.

Although the launching of the Indonesian communication satellite has to wait, but it will not upset Indonesia's telecommunication system which is currently in operation. The satellite which will be replaced by the B-2R satellite is still able to operate for at least another year, the minister said. [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Planned Nuclear Reactor

BK2003133590 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1305 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia will only concentrate on building a nuclear reactor with a capacity of 600 mw [megawatts], despite the construction of nuclear reactors with capacities between 800 to 1,000 mw in advanced countries, Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie said here on Tuesday [20 March].

Answering reporters after the opening of a seminar on nuclear energy, which was jointly organized by the BPPT (Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology), Batan (National Atomic Energy Agency) and the Japan-based Mitsubishi Corp. Ltd., Minister Habibie said that the building of a nuclear reactor with a capacity of only 600 mw was to fit in with the state electricity company's nuclear energy requirement which at present is already approaching the 600 mw.

Indonesia, he said, is expected to use nuclear energy for power generating early in the next (21st) century, so that preparations should be taken by mid-1990.

Habibie went on to say that the building of a nuclear power plant is safe against possible radiation dangers because of the vast experience in this field. Based on research results, it is evident that nuclear radiation is far smaller compared with coal radiation, he said.

On the price of electricity generated by nuclear power, it is very competitive because it is almost the same as that of electricity produced by coal-fueled power plants, Minister Habibie said.

Directives Given on Selling Shares to Cooperatives

BK2003095390 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 16 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] Coordinating Minister for Economic, Financial, and Industrial Affairs Radius Prawiro has issued directives for national and foreign companies on selling part of their shares to cooperatives in line with President Suharto's recent appeal on the "equitable distribution of incomes."

The minister said in a circular that all financially sound private firms should aim at selling up to 25 percent of their shares to healthy cooperatives.

Radius said his office, assisted by other government offices, would coordinate transactions of shares between the firms and cooperatives. The sales of the shares should be carried out voluntarily by businessmen as a conscious expression of their compliance to the Pancasila state ideology and the Constitution, he said.

He said selling shares to cooperatives would help promote the government's objective of social equality, raise the cooperatives' sense of belonging to the companies, narrow the social gap, and boost national solidarity and unity.

President Suharto told 31 business tycoons in a meeting at his Tapos cattle ranch near Bogor on March 4 that a more equitable distribution of incomes should be developed together with growth and stability. The president, therefore, suggested that large companies sell a portion of their equity shares to cooperatives in a bid to enhance the development of equality.

Radius said in the circular that the directives were mainly aimed at domestic private companies, but foreign firms were urged to give a priority to cooperatives when they divested their equity holdings to Indonesian entities as required by law.

The government, he said, would recommend names of cooperatives, but in general workers' cooperatives within the firms should be given a priority in the purchases of the shares. The companies and cooperatives should jointly decide on the amount of shares, he said. "But the sales should be gradual, according to the capability of each side, and attain to some 25 percent of the companies' equity," he said.

The value of the shares should be determined by appraisal companies, he said.

Radius said companies could arrange loans from their own resources or banks for the cooperatives to buy the shares.

Laos

Chinese Foreign Relations Delegation Pays Visit

Meets Phoun Sipaseut

BK1503113590 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 15 (KPL)—Phoun Sipaseut, Politburo member of the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee], head of its Foreign Relations Commission and minister of foreign affairs, on March 14 met with a delegation of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Communist Party of China CC led by its deputy head Zhu Shanqing.

The talk proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding during which emphasis was led [as received] on the strengthening and widening of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the parties and peoples of the two countries based on the restructuring policy being in process in each country.

Talks was [as received] also held here this morning between the Lao and Chinese delegations to exchange views relating to bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest.

The Lao delegation was led by Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun, member of the LPRP CC and deputy-head of its Foreign Relations Commission.

The Chinese delegation arrived here on March 13 for an 8-day visit to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

While here in addition to holding talks, the delegation will visit some provinces.

Meets Oudom Khatthi-gna

BK1703112490 Vientiane KPL in English 0854 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 17 (KPL)—Oudom Khatthi-gna, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, who is also head of its Organizational Board received here on March 16 a delegation of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Communist Party of China Central Committee led by its deputy head Zhu Shanqing.

During the talk, the two sides exchanged views relating to organizational work, the training of the party members and cadres, and the state of economy during the restructuring period.

The sides also expressed their satisfaction over the restoration and widening of the friendly relations between the parties, governments and peoples of the two countries.

The Chinese delegation, on March 15, also called on Singkapo Sikhotchounlamali president of the Lao Committee for World Peace and Solidatity With Other Nations. The host and the guest discussed various issues concerning the internal and international situations.

Meets Sisavat Keobounphan

BK2003025390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] On the afternoon of 16 March, Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, secretary of the party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane municipality, received, at the Vientiane municipal administration office, a courtesy call from a delegation of the Foreign Relations Board of the CPC Central Committee led by Comrade Zhu Shanqing, deputy head of the board. Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan informed the Chinese delegation about the general situation in Vientiane, in particular on the economic, cultural, and social construction during the reform period. The guest and host talked in a friendly atmosphere. They have reached mutual understanding on the gradual consolidation, promotion, and expansion of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and peoples of Laos and China on the basis of new changes in each country.

Ends Visit 20 Mar

BK2103111090 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 21 (KPL)—The delegation of the Foreign Relations Board of the Communist Party of China Central Committee led by its deputy head Zhu Shanqing returned home yesterday morning ending its one-week long cordial visit to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

The successful visit to Laos by this Chinese delegation will make a considerable contribution to the promotion of the friendly relations and cooperation between the two parties, states and peoples of Laos and China.

Among the send-off party at the airport were Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, first deputy head of its Foreign Relations Board, first deputy minister of foreign affairs; some senior Lao officials; and Liang Feng, Chinese ambassador to Laos.

Thai Princess Leaves Luang Prabang for Saravane

BK2103033690 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] This morning, Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand concluded her two-day visit to Luang Prabang and left on a special plane for Champassak and Saravane Provinces. In Champassak Province, the princess presented copies of the Tripitaka [Buddhist scriptures] to Vat Phou Temple and visited ancient shrines. After Champassak, she is scheduled to visit [words indistinct] and construction of the Seset hydroelectric dam in Saravane Province.

PASASON Denies Khmer Claim on SRV Troops

BK1703094590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Mar 90

[PASASON Article: "Fabrications of Ill Intentions Toward Cambodia"—date not given]

[Text] Everyone has acknowledged that all Vietnamese volunteer forces were withdrawn from Cambodia by late September last year. At that time, the State of Cambodia and the SRV invited many interested parties to witness the Vietnamese troop withdrawal. Several hundred persons showed up in Cambodia in response to the invitation, including news reporters, correspondents, representatives of international organizations, and a number of members of the House of Representatives of Thailand. Now, even vast public opinion in the United States and Western countries has admitted that the Vietnamese volunteer forces have been totally withdrawn from Cambodia. The 6 March issue of the U.S. newspaper INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, quoting a commentary of THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper, admitted that Vietnam totally withdrew its troops from Cambodia last spring. BBC on 16 February noted that in practice, Great Britain regards that all Vietnamese troops have been withdrawn from Cambodia. BBC also said that even U.S. authorities admitted there is no evidence that Vietnam still retains its fighting forces in Cambodia. Therefore, the claim by the Cambodian resistance factions that Vietnamese troops remain in Cambodia is inconceivable. The intelligence agency of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency have admitted that the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia is true.

Nonetheless, the Cambodian resistance factions and certain countries still refuse to accept this fact. They only want to concoct a false story claiming Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia. By making such fabrications, the Cambodian resistance factions, the Khmer Rouge in particular, have harbored many ill intentions. First, they want to divert world attention from their acts of violating human rights among Cambodian refugees [in Thailand] and Cambodian people living along the Cambodian-Thai border. Second, they want to discourage the other two Cambodian resistance factions and a number of countries concerned from concentrating efforts on resolving the central problem of Cambodia. That was why the Khmer Rouge exerted a great deal of effort at the recent informal meeting on Cambodia, clamoring that Vietnam has maintained troops in Cambodia. Moreover, they also intended to delay the process of achieving the settlement of the Cambodian problem through political means.

A U.S. Government document clearly points out the intention of the Khmer Rouge by stating that the strategy employed by the Khmer Rouge is to prolong the negotiations on the settlement of Cambodia for at least two more years to allow them to seize control on certain localities in the countryside in Cambodia. We can see that this is the aspiration of the Khmer Rouge. Nevertheless, current developments point in the opposite direction. At present, the Cambodian people resolve to fight against the Khmer Rouge to thwart their ill intentions.

Phoumi Vongvichit Interviews With Radio Moscow

BK2103103890 Vientiane KPL in English 0856 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 21 (KPL)—Phoumi Vongvichit, Politburo member of the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutiuonary Party Central Committee], acting-president of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], and president of the Lao Front for National Construction on March 20 granted an interview here to Brachenkov, Radio Moscow's corrspondent.

The acting-president spoke about achievements scored by the people in national construction and defence since the foundation of the republic. He talked about the Lao Constitution being drafted and the new method of cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Speaking about the situation in the country, Phoumi Vongvichit pointed out that the policy of the Lao PDR is

to unite people of all nationalities to fight against any interference and aggression from outside, to improve the living standard of all ethnicities in all spheres, and to materialise the two national strategic tasks: national defence and construction.

Referring to the economic activities, the acting-president said that the Lao party and government have been applying the new Leninist economic policy in concretizing the economy in the country, which is aimed at developing the work force, division of labour, switching from a subsistent economy to production for marketing, widely making use of various state capitalist forms and continuing to encourage all existing economic sectors by introducing suitable means of control over each sector.

According to the acting-president, the People's Supreme Assembly, elected in middle of last year, is working on civil and commercial laws which are to be adopted soon.

Touching on the international cooperation, Phoumi Vongvichit stressed that the basic policy of the Lao party and government is to continue consolidating the special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation with Vietnam and Cambodia, to closely unite and comprehensively cooperate with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, to support the struggle for peace and national independence of other nations. In addition, the Lao PDR carries out the policy of cooperating with all countries irrespective of socio-political differences, thus encouraging international support in the country's socio-economic development.

Phoumi Vongvichit Receives Soviet Ambassador

BK2003030790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] This morning, Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, received, in Vientiane, a courtesy call from Yuriy Mikheyev, ambassador of the Soviet Union to Laos. Ambassador Mikheyev informed the acting president about the outcome of the CPSU Central Committee plenary session and the election of Mikhail Gorbachev as Soviet Union president by the congress of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Mikheyev also told Phoumi Vongvichit about the complicated situation and problems in the Soviet Union, in particular Lithuania. Phoumi Vongvichit reiterated that the party, government, and people of Laos will continue to do their best to strengthen Lao-Soviet friendship and all-round cooperation for the benefit of both peoples and in the interest of peace and socialism.

Officials Send Greetings to Gorbachev on Election

Phoumi Vongvichit Message

BK1703125090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Mar 90

[16 March message of greetings from Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the USSR, on the latter's reelection]

[Text] On the occasion of your election as president of the USSR, on behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Lao people, and in my own name, I would like to convey to you, comrade, warm greetings and best wishes.

The Lao Government highly assesses the determination on the significant political election of the fraternal Soviet people on this occasion and is convinced that under your presidency, the Soviet Government will be able to overcome various difficulties and complexities and lead the nation to march forward to achieve new success in the perestroyka cause. I am convinced that with your contribution, the relations of fraternal friendship, solidarity, and cooperation in many fields between the two countries and peoples of Laos and the Soviet Union will be further consolidated, promoted, expanded, and strengthened for the benefit of our two countries and for the common cause of peace. I wish you, comrade, good health and success in performing your honorable cause.

Kaysone Phomvihan Message

BK1903132190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Today, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the occasion of his election as first president of the Soviet Union. The message reads:

On behalf of the Lao party, government, and people and in my own name, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you, comrade, on the occasion of your election as first president of the USSR. I believe the election constitutes trust in you, comrade, to advance the cause of perestroyka toward the humane and democratic system of socialism. I would like to reassure you that the party, government, and people of Laos will do everything to strengthen the relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union for the interest of the two peoples of Laos and the Soviet Union and for peace and socialism. May you, comrade, score successes in your heavy but noble and honorable duties. I wish you good health.

Phoumi Vongvichit Greets Namibian Independence

BK2103105290 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 21 (KPL)—Acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic H.E. [His Excellency] Phoumi Vongvichit today has sent a telegram of congratulations to H.E. Sam Nujoma, president of the Republic of Namibia, on the occasion of the proclamation of Namibia's independence (March 21).

The telegram reads: On the occasion of the proclamation of independence of the Republic of Namibia on March 21, 1990, on behalf of the Lao Government and people, and my own, I have an honour to extend best wishes and sincere congratulations to you and through you happiness and prosperity to the fraternal Namibian people.

On this historic occasion, the Lao Government and people hail the great victories by the Namibian Government and people in the heroic struggle imbued with sacrifice for the national independence of the Republic of Namibia, thus dismantling the last colonial vestige in Africa, the telegram notes.

The acting president expressed conviction that the friendly relations and militant solidarity between the two nations' governments and peoples would be strengthened and developed in the interest of the mutual benefit of the two countries, for solidarity and world peace.

Philippines

Imelda Marcos Accused of Damaging U.S. Ties

HK2003083590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The Philippine Government today accused former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos of attempting to ruin the integrity of the American judicial system and Philippine-U.S. relations. Philippine Ambassador to Washington Emmanuel Pelaez said that the groundless accusations made by Imelda Marcos are detrimental to Philippine-U.S. relations and to the American judicial process. Pelaez also clarified that the United States never used Mrs. Marcos' trial to influence the Philippine Government's position on the bases issue. He also denied accusations that the Philippine Government has been meddling in the former first lady's trial.

Earlier, Mrs. Marcos, in a letter to President George Bush, stated that the United States was intent on putting her on trial because it wanted to influence the Philippines position regarding the retention of its bases, of which Mrs. Aquino, she said, has the final say. Mrs. Marcos also said that the Aquino government is hoping to claim her money and properties in the event she is jailed. The former first lady reiterated her appeal to Bush to allow her to return to the Philippines where she could face all the crimes blamed on her, like robbing the government of taxpayers' money. The first lady faces trial in New York today for racketeering charges.

Publicity Drive Against Negative Reports Begun

HK2103030190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0200 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The Office of the Press Secretary and the Department of Foreign Affairs will jointly launch an extensive publicity campaign in the United States and other countries in order to erase the negative publicity about the country spread by foreign journalists. This was announced by Press Secretary Tomas Buddy Gomez before the committee on general services of the Commission on Appointments.

According to Gomez, his office will have a hard time countering negative publicity against the goverment because of a shortage of funds. At the same time, Gomez also named foreigners who write negative reports about the government. They include Luisita Lopez Torregosa of THE NEW YORK TIMES, Claudia Rossett of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, and Catherine Manigold of NEWSWEEK.

Column Blames CIA for Coup Attempts

HK2003100190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Mar 90 p 5

["Make My Day" column by Hilarion M. Henares: "No Successful Coup Without U.S. Approval"]

[Text] Coup d'etat literally means a blow or stroke by the state, one of those bold measures taken by the government to forestall a supposed or actual danger to the regime; more commonly, a violent or illegal seizure of power from above.

The phrase coup d'etat came into usage when Louis Napoleon, nephew of Bonaparte, was elected president of the Second French Republic in December 1848; made his coup d'etat on Dec 2, 1851, and became Emperor Napoleon III on Dec 2, 1852. He became known as the Man of December.

In this sense the proclamation of martial law on Sept 21, 1972, was a coup d'etat by Marcos, accomplished with the consent of the U.S. government and the IMF.

But in the latter part of this century, coup d'etat came to mean the seizure of power by a small conspiratoral group among the ruling elite, utilizing the power centers of the state itself.

There are four conditions under which a coup is possible: First the country must have a small ruling class. Second, it must not be under foreign control. Third, it must have one political center instead of regional centers of power. Fourth, the coup plans must be kept secret.

The IMF and U.S. policy to keep us poor, agricultural and controllable has mired us in the "idiocy of rural life." Our poor peasant society working from dawn to

dusk, hardly able to read and write, is kept under the control of feudal lords like Rep Hortense Starke, and oligarchs like the Lopezes and the Ayalas.

The most likely course of action following a coup is acceptance: by the masses because their interests are not tied to either side; by the Bureaucracy because the choice is between the danger of opposition and the safety of inaction. All that is required to support a coup, is simply to do nothing—and this usually happens.

But it is hard to seize power when there are regional centers that are aching to be independent, like Ilocandia, Cebu, Negros and Mindanao. Worse, coup plans cannot be kept a secret in this country. And it is impossible to seize power within the state if the major source of political power is not there to be seized.

The Hungarian coup of 1956 succeeded in seizing all traditional instruments of power: the army, police, radio and communications. But it failed because the real power was in the presence of Soviet troops in the country.

The present changes in Eastern Europe would not have been possible without the acquiescence of Soviet Russia pursuing its own glasnost and perestroyka.

Similarly in Saigon during the Vietnam War, the many coups were worked out with the participation and approval of the U.S. government. The first coup that overthrew President Ngo Dinh Diem started in May 1963 when the Americans debated whether the Buddhists were neutralists to be opposed or nationalists to be supported. They decided the Buddhists should be supported against Diem. By Oct 22, 1963, all economic aid to Diem's regime, and the CIA support of Diem's Special Forces, ceased. On Nov 1, 1963, a coup toppled Ngo Dinh Diem. The next day he was assassinated.

Eastern Europe and South Vietnam are two clear examples. But there are many countries in the gray area between effective independence and total submission. The presence of military and economic advisers, a ruling elite made up largely of lawyers and technocrats under retainer to foreigners, trade tied to inherited tastes, habits, and trade mark addiction—belie the colonial links that tie a nation to the apron strings of another, and prevent a coup without the consent and participation of the greater ally.

Thus in 1964, the French reversed a successful coup in Gabon, without needing to use more than symbolic force—the same way the U.S. government used the Persuasion Flights to thwart the December coup.

One might even say that most coup attempts by the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] boys were encouraged and supported by the CIA up to the point where the Cory government is rendered off-balance and receptive to the U.S. bases, but not to the point of deposing her, because Honasan lacks legitimacy to give away the bases.

The activities of the CIA creeps Col Vic Raphael and Col Steve Perry (Ina Ledesma's friend) in the Aug 28 coup attempt, tend to confirm this.

But the CIA miscalculated. The RAM boys were joined by Marcos loyalists (Soldiers of the Filipino People) with plenty of money and resources, and almost won.

The CIA had to backtrack with the Persuasion Flights because Cory, not Honasan, has the popular mandate and legitimate power. As a result, Honasan feels betrayed by the CIA, Doy Laurel turns against the bases, and President Cory begins to distrust the Americans.

The stupid CIA creeps did it again! How delightful!

Column Doubts U.S. Will Abandon Bases

HK2003044790 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 20 Mar 90 p 10

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "Strange Sounds on the Bases"]

[Text] From the way recent statements have been coming to us, it would seem the U.S. government is wholly prepared to get out of Clark and Subic if no new bases treaty is negotiated to replace the agreement that expires in 1991. I don't believe Washington or CINCPAC [Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command] could be saying anything else. If no new agreement is negotiated, then the U.S. presence is terminated, and it would be time to leave. But reasonable and responsible analysts doubt the U.S. is prepared to abandon the bases. There no signs it is preparing to leave or that it expects to be talking soon to a government that would ask its military forces to leave. In fact, not a few Filipinos believe the U.S. may be prepared to go to war or to rearrange the political furniture in the country just to keep those bases.

In the face of all this, there is reason to be displeased with recent U.S. statements saying that relocating the bases would be cheaper than paying rent to the Philippine government, or that the U.S. would be ready to quit in one year's time if no new treaty were concluded. If the bases are to stay beyond 1991, it should be according to terms mutually agreeable to the two parties; whether rent would have to be paid is an issue that should be negotiated. But for U.S. officials to be saying at this point that the U.S. might as well pull out rather than pay rent is to suggest that the burden is now on the Aquino government to convince the U.S. to say so that the host government could make a little money from rent. In like manner, the statement saying the U.S. would be out in one year if no new treaty were concluded seems to convey the message that the country would be left with a serious problem if that happened.

We hope we misread the statements. But we feel we are being psyched out. It is probably unreasonable to demand that the two parties reveal their true positions at this point. Mrs. Aquino, no matter how transparent her

game is, insists on saying she has an open options policy, which is no policy at all, and that she will finally take a position dictated by the national interest. Perhaps the U.S. is trying to match that with its own gobbledygook. But since its true position can be easily ascertained anyway, the statements we are hearing at this time succeed only in insulting our intelligence.

It is safe to assume that in the end, the U.S. will insist on staying well beyond 1991, and that the Aquino regime will give its consent, provided it gets enough economic incentives. Rent or whatever, some economic formula will have to be worked out to compensate for the use of the bases. This will have to be something better than the present formula which simply commits the U.S. president to undertake his "best efforts" to secure economic and military assistance to the host government.

As far as I can see it, the real problem is not convincing Mrs. Aquino to agree to a new agreement, but how to package her consent so that she could maintain the pretense of having opposed what she in fact endorsed, for the consumption of those who had supported her fight against Marcos in return for her agreement to oppose the bases. Other than this the toughest hurdle is a procedural question, rather than a substantive one. Under the Constitution, a new bases agreement will have to take the form of a treaty, duly concurred in by at least two-thirds of the Senate and, when Congress so requires, ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the people in a national referendum held for that purpose, and recognized as a treaty by the other contracting state.

Several months ago, the question was whether a treaty had any chance of passing the 23-member Senate, after 11 members signed a resolution calling for a termination of the U.S. presence by 1991. Pro-bases exponents were so convinced it did not have a Chinaman's chance, so Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr., acting as Malacanang's cat's-paw, began threatening to submit a new bases treaty to a referendum before submitting it to the Senate. But U.S. military intervention in the failed December coup which saved the Aquino regime from falling into rebel hands has since changed all that. Many senators who had wanted the U.S. out by 1991, if not earlier, have reconsidered their position, in grateful appreciation of U.S. help in preserving their Aquino government.

But, assuming the Senate is now receptive to a new treaty, will the U.S. Senate be similarly receptive to it? One reason why the Constitution insists on a treaty is, so that U.S. obligations can be fixed, instead of being subjected the vagaries of Philippine-American politics. But the Constitution cannot compel the U.S. to enter into a treaty instead of a simple executive agreement, if it does not like, and the U.S. does not have a single treaty with any of the base-countries. For this reason, it will most likely oppose a treaty and insist on a simple executive agreement.

The question then is, if the Aquino regime agrees to keep the bases beyond 1991, will it insist that the treaty be duly concurred in as well by the U.S. Senate or will it settle for an arrangement in which the Philippine Senate concurs in a treaty while the U.S. merely treats it as an executive agreement, not subject to the advise and consent of the Senate? Can it do this without violating the constitutional mandate?

Aquino Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

HK2103052790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino congratulated Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as the first elected president of the Soviet Union. In a telex sent to the Kremlin, she stated that Gorbachev's election as chief executive is an important moment for democracy in Moscow as well as in the entire country.

World Bank Loans $390 Million for Energy

HK1903041590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Mar 90 pp 1, 56

[By E.T. Suarez]

[Text] The World Bank (WB) has granted the Philippines a $390-million new loan to help the country attain self-sufficiency in energy and power requirements needed to propel the wheels of industries, sustain economic growth and improve the nation's investment climate.

Reports reaching Malacanang said yesterday Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Emmanuel Pelaez and WB acting Vice President Shinji Asanuma signed Friday the $390-million energy sector loan, the largest single loan extended by the World Bank to any country.

"The loan reflects the bank's long-term commitment to the Philippines as well as its confidence in the country's economic outlook," Pelaez said.

Meanwhile, President Aquino said the country's agricultural and industrial development will go hand in hand to generate jobs, increase production, and alleviate poverty.

Speaking on her weekly radio program, "Magtanong sa Pangulo [Ask the President]," the President said there is no conflict between agriculture and industrialization for as long as they are pursued within their respective parameters.

Citing the 232-hectare land in barangay Langkaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite, which is being converted into an industrial estate, the President said she has been assured that the project can generate as much as 55,000 new jobs.

Members of the farmers' families who were given homelots aside from payments of P55,000 per hectare as disturbance compensation, can work in any of the industrial projects to augment the family income, she said.

Pelaez said of the $390-million loan from the World Bank, $200 million will help finance power-expansion investments by the national Power Corp. (Napocor).

It was learned that Napocor is constructing a 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Calaca, Batangas, about 75 kilometers south of Manila, and a total of 965 megawatts of capacity will be added to power plants in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Geothermal energy resources will also be developed, other plants upgraded, and new transmission lines and facilities will be built, it was added.

A total of $150 million of the $390-million loan will help the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) participate in geothermal energy development and remove bottlenecks in the nation's refineries, Pelaez said. The loan will also help PNOC streamline its operations and increase its capacity for planning and implementing energy development projects.

The remaining $40 million of the loan will support the efforts of several government agencies to strengthen their investments in the development of power sources, procurement and monitoring operations.

Pelaez said the loan agreement provides that key investments to be made under the project will be cleared first by the Philippine government and the WB to make sure they have no adverse impact on the environment.

Investments supported by the new loan are expected to result in an additional 2,260 megawatts of generating capacity. Of that total, about 610 megawatts will be provided through geothermal sources, it was learned.

The WB loans are for 20 years, including five years of grace, with a variable interest rate, currently at 7.75 percent, linked to the cost of the bank's borrowing. They carry an annual commitment charge of 0.25 percent on the undisbursed balances.

Pelaez thanked the WB officials for their understanding and support to RP's economic development efforts, particularly in the critical energy sector.

He said WB's leadership role in the Multi-lateral Assistance Initiative (MAI) has not only generated massive financial resources from donor countries and institutions for the Philippines but has also encouraged the Philippine government to undertake economic reforms. "The MAI program is a prototype for the newly emerging democracies which would require the infusion of aid and other forms of economic assistance to establish the foundation for economic progress and democratic institutions," Pelaez said. Expensive and insufficient energy resources have been stunting the growth of Philippine industries, businesses and transportation systems, all of which play an important role in the government's economic recovery program. Between 1986 and 1988, demand for energy grew about 40 percent. "As economic growth continues, demand—especially for electricity—is expected to increase rapidly," he said.

Foreign Office on 'Formosa House Delegation'

HK1603082990 Quezon City MALAYA in English 16 Mar 90 pp 1, 6

[By E. Tordesillas]

[Text] The Protocol officer who met the "Formosa House delegation" at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport [NAIA] last March 4 said yesterday there was no Taiwanese in the group.

Conrado Tinsay, who signed the request for the NAIA management to extend arrival privileges to the visitors, said the delegation actually consisted of five members, not six. Tinsay said four were holders of U.S. passports. One, George Chang (Su Wann Lai), holds a passport issued by the People's Republic of China. [PROC]

"Formosa House" is the name of a U.S.-based investment house interested in buying Fort Ilocandia Hotel in Ilocos Norte, Tinsay said. The term does not refer to the Taiwan parliament, he said. Formosa is the old name of Taiwan.

PROC has protested Philippine dealings with Taiwanese officials.

Asked why the request for the use of the dignitaries lounge referred to the group's head as "His Excellency, Honorable Philip Chen, Formosa House delegation," Tinsay said this is the "standard form."

Secretary Raul Manglapus earlier said he was not aware that there was a Taiwanese legislator in the group. He said the only one he knew in the group was George Chang, a friend during his exile days in the U.S.

Jose Capistrano Jr., special assistant for operations of the Department of Tourism who accompanied the group to Laoag City, said there were six in the delegation and three were based in Taipei. He also said he did not know that the group included a Taiwanese parliamentarian. Capistrano added that only two in the group spoke English. they were Chang and Chen.

Manglapus said the group was here on "private business" and that he did not violate the One-China policy by using DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] personnel and facilities to entertain its members. He said it was in line with the government's program to attract foreign investments.

Diplomatic relations between the Philippines and China are based on the One-China policy which treats Taiwan as a province.

China has expressed displeasure over Manglapus' visit to Taipei last year and moves by some Congress members to upgrade Philippine relations with Taiwan.

Defense Secretary Leaves for Kuala Lumpur

HK1903132790 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos is now en route to Malaysia to attend the second defense services area conference in Kuala Lumpur on March 21 and 22. The details of that story from Jing Demasano:

[Begin recording] Secretary Ramos was invited by his Malaysian counterpart, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, to participate in discussions on topics of defense industrialization, self-reliance and regional cooperation. He will also discuss the modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as well as the country's total approach to insurgency adopted by the Aquino administration during the last four years in fighting the communist insurgency.

The defense secretary is also expected to meet Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Sri Mahathir bin Mohamed.

The major part of the conference will focus on the possibilities of cooperation in both defense and development in Asia-Pacific region, especially in Southeast Asia.

Secretary Ramos is scheduled to be back in Manila after three days. [end recording]

Aquino Explains Ramos' Exclusion in Graft Charge

HK1903132190 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 19 Mar 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] Those who are unhappy with the granting of provisional liberties to Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, retired General Felix Brawner, and the Panlileo couple accused of rebellion complexed with the charge of murder should take their case to the court. This was stated by President Corazon Aquino at her weekly news conference.

Meanwhile, the president also explained the exclusion of Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos in a graft case filed against Senator Enrile. The case concerns the alleged overpricing of 20,000 Armalites [rifles] when Enrile was defense minister and Ramos the chief of the Philippine Constabulary. Enrile claimed that Ramos was behind the purchase and was the signatory of the contract of purchase. However, the president said that Ramos' exclusion in the case was advised by Solicitor General Frank Chavez.

Aquino Says Extension of Powers Up to Congress

HK1903095190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Mar 90

[By Dick Sinchongco—italicized portion in English]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino today said it is up to Congress to decide whether to extend her emergency powers or not. The president explained that such powers greatly helped her administration in arresting coup leaders, controlling prices of basic commodities, and in preserving peace in the country. The Congress granted the president powers she could use within six months from January following the bloody December coup attempt. The objective of the emergency powers was to allow the government to pursue its economic recovery and prevent abuse of some traders. When asked about whether she wants to extend her emergency powers, the president said:

[Begin Aquino recording] *Well, I think it will be up to Congress to decide whether to extend my emergency powers or not. But you have seen yourself where we have been able to capture quite a number of the rebel leaders. So in that sense, we have made it more difficult for the rebels to think of mounting another coup attempt. So, I think that has helped, and also in the matter of price control where we have been able to control the prices of basic commodities. In that sense, we have been able to help.* [end recording]

Labor Groups Warn Against Oil Price Increase

HK1903025390 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Moderate and radical labor organizations were unanimous in warning against government approval of a new round of oil price increases or it could lead to (turmoil). The moderate Trade Union of the Philippines, or TUCP, was reported to have invited the radical Kilusang Mayo Uno or KMU [1 May Movement] to create a united front in going to stop the government from approving applications for new oil price hike by three oil companies. Of the three oil firms, Caltex has so far filed a petition for price increases with the Energy Regulatory Board, or ERB. Shell Filipinas Incorporated and the government- owned Petron Corporation are expected to follow suit this week.

Democrito Mendoza, president of the TUCP, said raising the prices of gasoline will trigger [words indistinct] in transport fares and cost of electric power and other basic commodities. Mendoza warned in recent a press statement that authorizing the oil price hikes will be politically [word indistinct] for the government, because organized labor and consumer groups will definitely oppose it.

The Senate came under new pressure from President Aquino and members of the House of Representatives for its failure to pass the 7-billion-pesos Energy Standby Fund, or ESF, which the government sees as the only means to prevent another round of oil price increases. Mrs. Aquino noted that a counterpart legislation for the ESF has already been passed by the Lower House last year. The ESF bill has been frozen in the Senate apparently because of a strong sentiment among majority of the senators that an improved tax-collection system, rather than an injection of new funds, would be the corrective preventive to a new oil price hike.

Meanwhile, Senator Gonzales summoned Francis Ablan, a top executive of Caltex Philippines, Commissioner Jose Ong of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, as well as ERB and Commission on Audit officials to testify on Wednesday to confirm the allegations and verify the money claims of oil companies under the Oil Price Stabilization Fund.

Aquino Not To Prevent Oil Price Increases

HK1903104790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Mar 90

[By Dick Sinchongco—italicized portions in English]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has turned down a proposal to use her emergency powers to prevent another oil increase. In her weekly news conference, the president said that the price of oil in the country is dependent on the world market price. According to the president:

[Begin Aquino recording] *Well, first of all, oil prices are dependent on the world prices. As you know, we are not an oil or well, we are an oil producing country but with a very small production. So, we are an oil importing country, and naturally, the prices here will have to depend on the prices of oil in the world market. At any rate, I understand that the Senate is conducting a hearing and it has, in fact, summoned the presidents of the three oil companies here. So, they would just like to hear from the officials of these oil companies if it is true, as reported before, that one of them has said that it was not necessary to increase the oil prices.* [end recording]

At the same time, Mrs. Aquino reiterated her appeal to the Senate to approve the 5-billion-peso Energy Standby Fund:

[Begin Aquino recording] *I would still like to appeal to the senators to arrange the passage of the oil standby fund bill, and in fact, I will be arranging for a meeting with some of the senators so that we can have their support in this matter.* [end recording]

The president had appealed several times to the Senate to pass the said bill to subsidize the almost drained Oil Price Stabilization Fund and prevent a possible increase in oil and other petroleum products. Earlier, General Renato de Villa, the Armed Forces chief of staff, said that the rebel soldiers may again launch another coup in the event oil prices go up.

Aquino, Party To Discuss Abad's Confirmation

HK1903130790 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 19 Mar 90

[From "GMA News" program—italicized portion in English]

[Text] The confirmation of Florencio Abad as Secretary of Agrarian Reform will be decided by the ruling LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] after Speaker Ramon Mitra has discussed the issue with President Aquino. This was revealed by Congressman Hernando Perez, LDP spokesman, at the Manila Hotel's breakfast forum. Perez added that Mitra may meet with the president either today or tomorrow. He also stressed that his party is not trying to block Abad's confirmation but that it simply wants to know Abad's policy vis-a-vis the land conversion plan under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

[Begin Perez recording] What we are waiting for is his guidelines because we are concerned with his statement that industrialization is a hindrance to agrarian reform, that every hectare of land given to industry is a hectare less for the land reform program. What we are saying is that the agrarian reform and the industrialization are both programs of the government and there should be no conflict of interests between the two. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Mitra said that if the president is satisfied with Abad's plan for implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, then the LDP will obey the president's decision.

[Begin Mitra recording] *The important thing is that the president is satisfied with the way Congressman Abad or Secretary Abad will implement her policies on land reform. But that is still between her and her secretary. What we merely wanted is a clarification of his stand on certain fundamental issues. As you know, we in the LDP always state our stand on these major issues that affect national policies. And this is one such issue which affects the nation.* [end recording]

Ileto Comments on Possible New Coup Attempt

HK2103094590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Mar 90

[by Dick Sinchiongco of Mobile Unit No 6—italicized portion in English]

[Text] The government is intensifying preparations to thwart another coup attempt by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM). National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto said that based on intelligence reports, it will not be until four or five weeks time. Malacanang newsmen interviewed Ileto after he came from a cabinet meeting:

[Begin Ileto recording] *I was just talking to Secretary Quisumbing. He attended that. He was coming out and he briefed me on what transpired yesterday. And one of the statements of General de Villa is that for the next four weeks, five weeks—I'm just quoting him [words indistinct].* [end recording]

Speculations of another coup are rife because the rebel soldiers belonging to RAM could take advantage of the oil price hike issue. Ileto added that the RAM continues to be a threat to the country's security.

RAM-SFP Calls for Nonviolent Action

HK2003022790 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 20 Mar 90 p 1

[By reporter Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] The operations chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday said the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance]-Soliders of the Filipino People (RAM-SFP) has issued a call on government forces to go on a "sit-down strike" as part of a "peaceful and bloodless" protest action against the national leadership.

Brig. Gen. Lisandro Abadia, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Operations (J-3) chief, warned that soldiers joining such a strike would be discharged from the service.

In a recent open letter to the Filipino people, former Army Col. Gregorio Honasan, suspected leader of the failed December coup, said "the soldiers of the people are set to declare a peaceful breakaway wherein no one will be shot. The movement will be joined by millions of enraged citizenry—enraged by the false promises and ruthlessness of the greatest political swindler," he said.

If true, the staging of a peaceful sit-down strike by members of the military would be a sharp departure from the tactics employed by mutineers since 1986.

Meanwhile, detained rebel military officers in Camp Crame yesterday urged the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc. (PMAAAI) to "look into our cases and make appropriate arrangements with the authorities" to cut their three-month detention "without proper charges."

Citing intelligence reports, Abadia said that RAM fugitive leader ex-Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan has been urging enlisted personnel to join the planned sit-down and bloodless strike. "We have heard that they will hold a sit-down strike," Abadia said. "Soldiers (who will join the strike) will be discharged." Abadia added that no troop movement on the part of the rebel forces has been monitored in the past days. "Mababa ang kanilang recruitment (Their recruitment level is low)," Abadia said.

Despite the military's capture of alleged coup plotters, rumors about another coup and other destabilizing activities continue.

A few days after the sixth and the most serious coup attempt last December, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Renato S. de Villa went around military camps and held lengthy dialog with the soldiers in an effort to thwart any participation by enlisted personnel to later coup attempts.

In a letter dated March 9 sent to PMAAAI Chairman Juanito Ferrer, the detainees accused the Aquino government of violating their constitutional rights.

"We are requesting you (Ferrer) to look into our cases and make appropriate arrangements with the authorities in order that we will not continue to be detained in jail without proper charges in violation of our rights under the Constitution...," the letter signed by the fourteen detainees said.

Among the signatories were: Navy Capt. Jesus Durian, PC [Philippine Constabulary] Col. Anselmo Avenido Jr., Army Capt. (ret.) Lyel Tugbang, PC Col. Renato Motus, Army Lt. Col. Levy Zamora, Army Maj. Jose Gamos, PC Capt. Gino Hermosisima, PC 1Lt. Wilben Mayor, PC 2Lt. Jonas Calleja, PC Capt. Nestor Bernardino, Air Force 1Lt. Wilfredo Jimenez, PC 1Lt. Elisio Rasco and PC 2Lt. Bernabe Balba.

Businessman Arrested for Harboring Rebel Soldier

HK2003110590 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 20 Mar 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] Businessman Vicente Puyat was arrested by Criminal Investigations Service operatives inside his house in Quezon City earlier today. It will be recalled that the house in Bulacan where Major Wilhelm Doromal was hiding belongs to Puyat. He was arrested on charges of harboring a criminal. But he will be released shortly after he puts up bail money.

Probe of Alleged Communist Infiltration Ordered

HK2003105990 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 Mar 90

[by Tanny Rodriguez]

[Text] President Aquino has ordered Agrarian Reform Secretary Florencio Abad to carry out another investigation regarding a report by the National Crusade for Good Government alleging that communist rebels have infiltrated the government to the extent that they are now participating in the enforcement of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, or CARP.

In her press statement, the president said that although the truth to the allegation is not yet established, she instructed Secretary Abad to immediately look into the issue because the government could not let any force ruin CARP.

Communist Infiltration Alarms PAP Donors

HK2003031190 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Mar 90 pp 1, 21

[Text] Reports of communists involved in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) have so alarmed some prospective contributors that they are considering withdrawal from the Philippine Aid Plan (PAP).

This was revealed yesterday by the National Crusade for Good Government (NCGG) which received the reports

from sources in the banking community, the PAP itself, and the military intelligence community.

NCGG leaders urged government authorities concerned to publicly disclose pertinent information about the reported infiltration by communists of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and other government agencies.

Resigned Brig. Gen. Pedro R. Balbanero and Dean Antonio P. Coronel, NCGG founders, recalled that the communist infiltration was first exposed by Vice President Salvador Laurel when he was the foreign affairs secretary in the Aquino administration.

Then Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor Santiago reported there were 36 communists in the DAR. She signed an agreement with Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos last year for an investigation of her expose.

"Nothing has been heard of the results of the investigation since the signing of the agreement, but surely, some work must have already been accomplished by now for the information and action of the Commission on Appointments on the case of DAR Secretary-designate Florencio Abad," Balbanero and Coronel said.

they noted that Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. had stated in Davao City last Saturday that the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] would not countenance the presence of communists in the DAR and other government offices.

NPA Said To Offer Monthly Wage to Recruits

HK1903040790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Mar 90 p 56

[By Lulu Principe]

[Text] Ilocos San Fernando, La Union—A military official in the Ilocos region said over the weekend that the New People's Army (NPA), apparently worried by its dwindling forces, has resorted to a new recruitment scheme by granting P[peso]1,500-monthly wage to every new recruits.

Lt. Col. Hercules Cataluna, Ilocos Sur provincial commander, said the latest strategy however was rejected by those approached by the NPA, saying "it (salary) is a pure ploy and can never be provided by the NPA."

This developed as local military authorities in Pangasinan discovered two decomposing bodies of exmembers of the NPA who were believed liquidated on orders of their leaders for returning to the fold of the law. The 51st PC [Philippine Constabulary] Company reported to Brig. Gen. Miguel Abaya, Region 1 command chief, that the remains of Narciso Aguilar, 62 and his brother Juanito, 57, former tax collectors of the NPA, were found in a grassy site near the foot of the Caraballo mountain in Natividad, Pangasinan.

Cataluna said the NPA has resorted to various recruitment strategies in a bid to consolidate its forces.

Report Examines Negros Anti-Insurgency Campaign

Part One

HK1703074690 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 12 Mar 90 p 4

[First of Two-part "Special Report" on Negros sugar planters by Roberto Burgos: "Negros Planters Pose 'Silent War' vs. Military"]

[Text] Bacolod City—Some 7,000 sugar planters in Negros are locked in a bitter silent "war" with the military over a government policy to disarm them and their plantation security forces that have been organized to help in the anti-insurgency campaign.

Because of their active participation in the fight against communist insurgents in the province, most, if not all, sugar planters have become prime targets of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) hitmen. The threat hangs like a sword of Damocles over their heads.

Negros sugar planters supply about 55 percent the national sugar requirements.

Two years ago, the sugar planters in coordination with the provincial military command, then headed by Brig. Gen. Rene Cardones of the Negros Island Command (Nicom), and Col. Mike Coronel, former PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] provincial commander, started organizing the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) and other civil military groups to help in the anti-insurgency fight.

The Cafgu members, mostly rebel-returnees, were provided with arms and regular monthly salary by the planters through the Sugar Development Foundation, Inc. (SDF). Source of the SDF funding is the compulsory contribution of each sugar planter amounting to P4.50 for every picul of sugar produced and sold each month. The annual contribution to the SDF runs to about P50 million.

To date, there are about 1,500 rebel-returness employed by the SDF as security guards. But their disposition and assignment come from the military after rigorous training in various defense and security systems.

The bigger plantation owners employ their own Cafgu force under the command of Army regular who are themselves veteran anti-communist fighters.

Aside from the monthly pay which average P1,250, each paramilitary member is also provided such benefits as free housing, hospitalization for himself and members of his family, and life insurance worth P18,000.

Being former red fighters, the Cafgus have become the nemesis of their former comrades. The anti-insurgency campaign does not only involve actual combat. The

Cafgu members also spend time explaining to the rural folk the evils of communism and its false pretenses. The Cafgus know how to do this effectively, having been "there."

Recent incidents of foraging and pillaging by communist terrorists in the strife-torn province tended to confirm previous military reports that the communist movement is fast losing its mass-based support.

But it is feared that this trend may soon come to a halt , if not reversed, should the government pursue its plan to disarm the Cafgus and their employers just so the government can update the registry of firearms all over the country.

Communist activities, which had suffered setbacks with the launching of a series of military offensives, have lately escalated, again and they now threaten not only the economic gains of the sugar planters but also the well-being of the paramilitary personnel.

Since last January communist terrorists have burned a total of 90.5 hectares of sugarcane fields worth about P10 million following the refusal of owners and planters to pay the so-called "revolutionary tax".

The last atrocities occurred on Feb. 20 when 26.5 hectares of sugarcane in Murcia, Escalante and the cities of Silay and Bacolod were torched. The conflagration also engulfed five tractors and a cargo truck.

Some of the haciendas "visited" by the NPA terrorists were Hacienda Gretchen, owned by Jose Montelibano in Barangay E. Lopez in Silay; Hacienda Marigosa, owned by Romulo Fuentebella; Hacienda Roy, owned by Edwin Velez; Hacienda Mariguso Uno, owned by bacolod City Board Member Mike Suarez; Hacienda La Purisima Concepcion, owned by Enrique Rojas; Alemany family of Escalante; Hacienda Edmar, owned by Eduardo Lopingco; Hacienda Gloria; Hacienda Luyan; Victorias Milling; Hacienda Cantikbil; Hacienda San Enrique; Hacienda Bayabas; Hacienda of Ramon Varela; and Hacienda Ignapalong, owned by Rafael Espinosa.

All the burnings of the sugarcane fields were done in a span of just one month when the military were confiscating the firearms of sugar planters and their civilian security forces.

The systematic crackdown on loose firearms by the military was temporarily stopped when the Constabulary-Integrated National Police Chief, Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, ordered a moratorium until March 24 to give gun holders ample time to make the necessary preparation for registration.

Nearly 100 firearms of various calibers have so far been seized by the Constabulary provincial command under Lt. Col. Reynaldo Velasco in several checkpoints set up around the province.

After March 24, when the military authorities resume implementing the firearms ban and confiscation, it is feared that the sugar planters would be deprived of the means to protect themselves and their farms against the wrath of communist terrorists.

Part Two, First Installment

HK2703082790 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 13 Mar 90 p 5

[Part one of second installment of "Special Report" on Negros sugar planters by Roberto G. Burgos: "Negros insurgency: The CAFGU role"]

[Text] Bacolod City—The Cafgus [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units] in Negros, like their counterparts in other areas, do not receive any compensation from the government.

All they get is free security and combat training from the military.

Aside from performing patrol duties with the regular government troops, the Cafgus also undertake community relations work like giving lectures on the evils of communism.

Joint military and Cafgu anti-insurgency operations have stopped communists' initiatives and recovered their gains, especially in the hinterlands of Negros. But their inceassant operations have not been limited to combat activities.

Former NICOM [Negros Island Command] commander Brig. Gen. Rene Cardones initiated two anti-insurgency drives in the province, particularly in the CHICKS area: Cauayan, Hinobaan, Ilog, Candoni, Kabankalan and Sipalay.

Operation "centerpiece" was mounted to neutralize the armed threat of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and its military force, the New People Army, [NPA] while plan "corpudeli" was more of a civic action using special force teams to win back rebel mass base to the government side.

It's a result of the two drives, the first quarter of 1989 was characterized by mass surrenders of CPP-NPA members, along with their supporters and sympathizers who had been the main sources of food and other basic supplies of the rebels.

Unknown to many negrenses, the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Special Forces (AFP) have been highly successful in providing social and economic assistance to people in remote areas.

In August 1988, the Special Forces under Col. Alvis, Maj. Tagorda and Capts. Guerra and Ortiz, with sugar planters Nico Alonzo and Manolet Lamata, transformed a former communist "watering hole" into a peaceful and stable community.

People were amazed at how Barrio Tiki in Napindahan, Negros Oriental progressed into a thriving community with the help of the team of special forces. Situated some

4,000 feet above sea level, the village was practically isolated from the rest of the world. Using Army helicopters, the civilian-team airlifted to the rebel-infested area coffee seedlings, a herd of breeding goats and other supplies, such as medicines, construction materials and equipment. Through bayanihan [Brotherhood] spirit, the community gradually prospered. Seeing this, the communist rebels started laying down their arms and eventually returned to the fold of government and a life of peace and economic stability.

The (Cafgus) are a disciplined lot. The few who went astray were dealt with severely by their employers. "One grave mistake, he's out," said Nico and Manolet. "We are very harsh with abusive Cafgus. We never allow abuses to go unpunished," the two said.

Alonzo and Lamata, both in their early 40s, spend five days a week in their plantation in the outskirts of La Carlota City. The two, with a handful of young sugar planters, have been in the forefront of fighting communist insurgency for at least 10 years. They were forced to arm themselves, including their families, as protection against rebel threat. Despite the current firearms ban, the two hacienderos plus their Cafgu security men, continue to pack their guns in and out of Bacolod. "We'd rather risk detention inside the military stockade than die in the hands of communist terrorists without putting up a fight," they said, as we negotiated the rugged terrain to their farm.

Before proceeding to the farm, Manolet called up the farmhands, through his hand-held transceiver, that we were on our way and to make sure the farm was clear and properly secured.

Pointing out a hill some 500 meters from the road as a rebel stronghold, Manolet and Nico related how they were nearly ambushed last year by the rebels who were trying to extort "protection" money. "We were on our way here one evening when we passed by some armed men just across the plantation railroad track crouching in shallow foxholes. Luckily for us, they did not recognize us right off because it was raining at the time," they said. "It was the first time we came to the farm at night and this could have probably distracted their attention," they added. Going back to the scene the next day, the two planters and their Cafgu security found foxholes on both sides of the road that left telltale signs of a near tragedy.

Three months ago, a Cafgu patrol led by an Army sergeant walked on a minefield set up by the rebels at the outer perimeter of the plantation. A firefight ensued, killing two Cafgus and wounding several others. The rebels took with them their wounded as they retreated to the forests.

Amin Lucasan, a former member of the CPP-NPA Propaganda Organizing Team (POT), is one of the militiamen guarding the hacienda and the nearby barangay.

Lucasan, in his late 40s, said he decided to leave the rebel movement when he realized nothing was coming out of the propaganda promises made by his recruiters, one of whom he identified as a parish priest named Fr. Saginsin.

He said Fr. Saginsin persuaded him in 1976 to join the communist movement and help uplift the plight of the people and the farmers in particular. Lucasan was a farmer before he joined the CPP-NPA.

Like him most of those who joined the rebel movement recruited by members of the clergy and their associates, particularly the Kristiyano Katilimban or the basic Christian community.

As the rebel movement expanded its membership through the help of some religious sectors, the CPP-NPA became bolder.

When Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque took over command of the NICOM in April 1989, the rebels "welcomed" the new commander with a daring attack on the Caningay detachment of the 7th Infantry Batallion, killing six soldiers and a pregnant wife of a soldier. Several others were also wounded. The rebels then fled after burning the detachment headquarters and the soldiers' houses.

This led Jarque to mount operation "thunderbolt," the biggest military offensive ever launched in the province. The operation broke the backbone of the 20-year CPP-NPA control over the CHICKS area. The series of encounters between government forces and rebels resulted in the death of at least four Cafgus and at least 36 NPAs. Seventy-three rebels were arrested during and after the fierce confrontations, while 134 others surrendered. The military recovered also land titles issued by the National Democratic Front to farmers who were declared beneficiaries of the spurious CPP-NPA land reform program.

On the other hand, the Negros Occidental provincial command, now under Lt. Col. Reynaldo Velasco, initiated some 50 offensives that resulted in the killing of 61 rebels and 20 government troops composed of 16 CAFGU members and four enlisted men.

Part Two, Second Installment

HK1703085190 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 14 Mar 90 p 4

[Part two of second installment of "Special Report" on Negros sugar planters: "NPA drafts Negros terrorism campaign"]

[Text] Bacolod City—Documents seized by the military from various CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] camps show the communists have lined up several strategies and terroristic activities this year.

Some of the strategies which had already been initiated in other parts of the country are to be adopted nationwide by the CPP-NPA command.

In Negros, the CPP-NPA Negros Island Revolutionary Party Committee (NIRPC) headed by Edward Vargas

started mounting terrorist activities by raiding military and Cafgu outposts in remote areas.

Some of the strategies outlined by top CPP-NPA committee members include the launching of a coordinated action against the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] dismantling of all Cafgus and other para-military detachments organized by the military; adoption of annihilative warfare in the conduct of military campaign and offensive by battalion, company, platoon-sized red fighters, mobilization of local guerilla units in the defense of NPA territories; liquidation of military-captured CPP-NPA personalities; and the weakening of the political control of the government over localities and recovered areas which were temporarily abandoned.

Lately, the military believed the insurgents have resorted to banditry tacties to sow terror on sugar planters who refused to give in to their demands.

The military suspects the CPP-NPA finance committee has managed to monitor the movements of the sugar planters and millers presumably through Very High Frequency (VHF) communications facilities.

Douglas Demonteverde, station manager of DYEZ in Bacolod, reported the loss of another VHF to suspected communist rebels inside their patrol van. Demonteverde said only people with communications expertise could have stolen the equipment. It was the second burglary of a VHF station suffered within a one-year period. Demonteverde said the equipment could be used in monitoring messages of sugar planters and millers, including that of the military.

Assessing the current situation in Negros, Ltd. Col. Reynaldo Velasco, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief, said the continuing rise of CPP-NPA related violence and terroristic activities, like the burning of sugarcane fields, hijacking, ransacking and other criminal acts, denotes that the communists are now on the defensive.

Likewise, Velasco said, the incessant conduct of liquidations by NPA hitmen continued to be under taken in furtherance of their objective to sow fear and terror as well as to discourage, if not totally neutralize, anti-communist groups which include the sugar planters.

Recently, soldiers from the 334th PC company led by 2Lt. Adolfo Samala captured three members of the CPP-NPA "Collection department" after a brief encounter in Sagay. Recovered from the suspects were letters addressed to planters Delfin Tubal and Vicente Balicas demanding P600,000 from each in exchange for protection of their lives and farms.

Earlier, five NPA collectors were also arrested in separate encounters in Toboso, Calatrava and Bacolod City.

The five admitted collecting a can of rice and P1 from each resident every month for the communist movement.

Aide from exacting compulsory contributions from hapless residents, the CPP-NPA in the province managed to survive through other sources of funding.

An NPA amazon who was arrested by the military in Murcia told her captors she was employed by the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW) and was in-charge of the socio-economic projects of the labor union. Elena Prat, 22, said she was assigned every month to go to Bacolod to get the salaries of the NFSW employes in Murcia and that the excess collection went to the rebel movement.

Although the military appear to have the rebel situation under control, the estimated 7,000 sugar planters are "very restive" and wary of the future. "We really don't know what will happen to us and our farm workers if the government insisted on taking our guns away," Manolet Lamata and Nico Alonzo said.

The planters, through the Sugar Development Foundation, had spent over P2 million for the total rehabilitation of two V-200s which had been left to rot by the military because of lack of funds.

Although the military hardware had not been actually used yet to defend sugar farms which had been under rebel attacks, they are now in running condition ready to be fielded anytime. "We have always been very cooperative and supportive of the government, specially in its anti-insurgency campaign," the planters said. They added they were not asking for special favors, "(but) are only asking that the government allow us to bear our arms against our common enemy."

"We're not saying we are better fighters than the soldiers," they stressed. "On the contrary it was the soldier who taught us and our security men to use our guns properly. But then, the soldiers cannot be around all the time to protect us, they also have to take care of other areas," the planters said.

The planters said the communists were just waiting in the wings to take them as soon as they were no longer armed. "If this happened, the gains we have achieved shall have gone to naught and it would set back our economic stride by at least six years," they added.

Negros island produces about 55 percent of the country's total sugar output. The price of the commodity in the world market has started to perk up and so does the local sugar industry. The country's sugar industry, which has been "clinically dead" since the collapse of world market prices 10 years ago, may finally die unless the government took positive steps to push it toward complete recovery.

Agro-Forestry Exports Income Shrink in 1989

HK1503044490 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English 15 Mar 90 p 2

["Indicator" column by Rica D. Delfino: "Share of Agro-Forestry in Exports Income Down in '89"]

[Text] The ratio of agro-based and forest product exports income to the country's aggregate external receipts of $7.8 billion last year shrank by 2.1 percentage points to 20.8% from 22.9% in 1988, latest Central Bank (CB) statistics indicate.

Last year's earnings from this group of commodity exports of $1.624 billion, however, was still $5 million more than the $1.619 billion the country raked in the preceding year, the CB said.

The CB defines agro-based and forest product exports as consisting primarily of: coconut products; sugar and its products; other agro-based products such as fish, unmanufactured tobacco, abaca and coffee; and, forest products such as logs, lumber and plywood.

The government banking institution attributed the slight shrinkage in the share of income from these items to aggregate external receipts to the weakening prices in the world market.

Among agro-based products, the item which was affected the most by weakening world prices on account mainly of declining demand was coconut.

Per the CB data, coconut products brought in $541 million to the country last year, accounting for still the biggest export income among agro-based exports. But the amount was 7% lower than the $582 million foreign exchange receipts earned by the export item in 1988.

The CB traced the decline to the downswing in coconut oil exports, the value of which dropped by 7.6% from $408 million in 1988 to $377 million in 1989. That such a slight downward movement could influence overall income from coconut products is due to the fact that last year, coconut oil constituted 50% of coconut exports.

Other agro-based products are fish, coffee, abaca fibers, manufactured tobacco, rubber, ramie, dried seaweeds and rice. These ranked next to coconut products in terms of dollar earnings for the country last year, at $454 million, an amount almost 50% of which or $231 million was hauled in by shrimp and prawn exports.

Last year's earnings from the above items, though, were also 5% lower than the $480 million recorded by the agro-based specific commodity grouping in 1988.

The only agro-based products which fared well last year were sugar and its products and fruits and vegetables.

Earnings from sugar and its products rose by 52% last year from a measly $74 million in 1988 to $113 million. On the other hand, fruits and vegetables raked in $319 million last year, with papaya earning the greatest, at $146 million or 45% of the aggregate external receipts from this commodity group. Papaya is popular and therefore, highly priced, in Europe and Japan.

Coming in next to papaya in terms of export earnings from fruits and vegetables was canned pineapple, which brought in $91 million during the period under review.

Foreign exchange earnings from forest products, meanwhile, declined by a notable 21.5% to $197 million in 1989 from its 1988 level of $251 million.

The pulldown, the CB said, was provided mainly by the standing log export ban which last year depressed foreign earnings from this forest product to below the million dollar mark. As earnings from log exports dropped, so did income from lumber which declined by $21 million to $136 million at the end of 1989 from its 1988 level of $157 million.

Column Examines Ongoing Irrigation Projects

HK1903042190 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English 19 Mar 90 p 2

["Indicator" column by Irene M. Cariaga: "P4.2B Irrigation Projec[illegible] For Implementation This Year"]

[Text] Farmers in the country are expected to obtain greater access to irrigation water with the implementation this year of 29 projects worth a total of P[peso]4.23 billion data culled from the 1990 public investment program indicate.

When completed, the country's irrigation system coverage of 1.52 million hectares (has.)—57% of these are planted to palay—will likely widen by 46,717 has. to 1.57 million has., according to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the implementing agency.

The amount, it was learned, is being spent specifically on the following:
—Construction of diversion dams and headwork structures;
—rehabilitation, upgrading, and construction of water distribution canals and structures, service and access roads complementary thereto;
—on-farm development;
—watershed development and conservation; and,
—construction of project facilities for operation and maintenance.

Per the investment program, a little over 50% of the aggregate amount being channeled to irrigation is being funded by foreign loan proceeds, at P2.13 billion coming mainly from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF).

The remainder of the aggregate outlay, at P2.1 billion, is being provided for by government in the form of equities, the general appropriation for communal projects, the NIA's corporate funds and the Accelerated Agricultural Production Project Fund.

This year's investment outlay for irrigation is a 39% hike from last year's P3.04 billion. The hike was made possible by government's increasing its appropriations in this area by 38%.

NIA records, meanwhile, show that most of the projects for implementation this year are carry-overs from the previous administration. This is true mainly for the foreign-assisted ones.

Of the 29 projects, nine were supposed to be due last year, four this year and two, next year, the NIA said. Such carry-overs, it added, are due to delays which arose out of: peace and order situations in some localities; typhoons and floods; equipment breakdown; and, delayed fund releases.

Irrigation projects carried over from last year are: the Philippine Medium Scale Integrated Project (PMSIP) in Mindoro and Palawan; the Watershed Management and Erosion Control Project (WMECP) in Magat and Pantabangan in Nueva Ecija; the Naga-Calabang a Irrigation Project; Agusan II Irrigation Project; Bukidnon Irrigation Project; Allah River Irrigation Project; Davao II Irrigation Project; and, the Cagayan Integrated Area Development Project-Irrigation Component (CIADP-IC).

Scheduled for completion this year are the Communal Irrigation Development Project (CIDP); the Second Laguna de Bay Irrigation Project; Davao III Irrigation Project, and the Tago River Irrigation Project in Surigao del Sur.

To be completed next year are the First Irrigation Sector Project in Regions 11 and 12 and the Bohol Irrigation Project.

Thailand

Possible U.S. Action Against Khun Sa Viewed

BK2103084190 Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 20 Mar 90 p 5

[Editorial: "The United States Wants to Arrest Khun Sa Noriega-Style"]

[Text] According to a report from Washington, the United States has secretly considered a military operation to dispatch paratroopers to Thailand or from Thai bases, to attack Khun Sa's stronghold in the Golden Triangle in the Thai-Burmese-Lao border, and to arrest him for criminal prosecution in the United States. A U.S. court has ruled that Khun Sa is guilty of masterminding the shipment of large amounts of heroin for years into the United States. The operation's rationale is that a raid on Khun Sa would be no different from the U.S. raid in Panama that captured Noriega, a cocaine trafficking suspect. We feel that as a precaution against any damage, the Thai Government should find out how serious the United States is about the operation and what Thailand's role is if the U.S. is serious about the plan.

Regardless of the seriousness of the U.S. operation, our view is that such a move against Khun Sa imitates a Rambo-style script. The dense jungles and mountains of the Golden Triangle area would enable Khun Sa and his forces to escape easily. This happened in 1983 when the Border Patrol Police and soldiers attacked Khun Sa's stronghold at Ban Hin Taek, Mae Hong Son Province. Despite good planning, Khun Sa and his men escaped to Burma. The Thai forces only managed to destroy his stronghold.

In any event, with good planning, reliable intelligence, and a surprise attack by special paratrooper units, the U.S. operation could succeed. But what about the international political problems, including the extradition of Khun Sa, to follow? Although Khun Sa is a criminal he is unlike Noriega who is a political figure. Also, the United States and Burma do not have bilateral extradition agreements. Therefore, the U.S. capture of Khun Sa in Burmese territory would constitute a violation of Burmese sovereignty. If, however, U.S. operatives are based on Thai territory, Thailand will face international criticism for tolerating foreign interference in its internal affairs and the presence of foreign forces in its territory. Among the issues which Thailand should first study to avoid foreign criticism is: Will the operation be carried out in Interpol's name or in its own?

We fully support the elimination of Khun Sa and his influence in the Golden Triangle as this will put an end to the world's major source of heroin, and disrupt its trafficking network and production. It will also reduce both the number of American and Thai addicts who have become slaves of heroin manufactured by Khun Sa. We only ask that the U.S. operation, if it is real, be conducted in a way that will preempt foreign criticism of Thailand, and that it will be one where the world will be convinced that the undertaking is aimed at suppressing a criminal who threatens the world population.

Chawalit Plans One-Day Visit to SRV 26 Mar

BK2103005590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut will leave for a one-day visit to Vietnam next Monday, [26 March] reliable sources said yesterday. Sources said Gen Chawlait is to leave aboard an Army C-130 transport plane with a party of 80 people for Vietnam and return the same day after talks with senior Vietnamese leaders.

The Army chief is scheduled to meet Communist Party Secretary-General Nguyen Van Linh, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese Defence Minister and his counterpart Army Commander-in-Chief Doan Khue.

Included in Gen Chawalit's party are 40 businessmen, 30 military officers and 10 other civil servants. Foreign Ministry Political Department Director-General Pracha Khunakasem will also be in the party, sources said.

The trip had earlier been scheduled for yesterday, but was postponed at the request of the general. The Monday trip would be the first for a senior Thai military leader since the end of the Vietnam War.

General Says Neutral Camp Plan Not Sound

BK1603021790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff Sunthon Khongsomphong yesterday voiced opposition to the government's plan to set up "neutral camps" in Thailand to house Cambodian refugees now living under control of Cambodian resistance factions. Gen [General] Sunthon said such camps should be built inside Cambodia and should not be administered by the Thai government. "We have been burdened with Cambodian refugees for 10 years," he said.

Prime Minister Chatchai announced the plan last week and said Wednesday [14 March] that the neutral camps should be set up on Thai soil. Possible sites for the camps include Khao I Dang in Prachin Buri and Kab Cherng in Surin. The government's plan is aimed to set the stage for repatriating Cambodian refugees, as prospects for settlement of the Cambodian conflict grow.

About 290,00 Cambodians now live in 10 border camps separately administered by the three Cambodian resistance groups and funded by the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO). Thai officials said the neutral-camp plan had won support from UNBRO and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Chatchai said Wednesday the European Community also supports the plan.

Sunthon said the National Security Council (NSC) had not yet talked to the Thai military on the issue.

When asked about the safety of refugees living in neutral camps inside Cambodia, Sunthon said: "If the refugees are moved into Cambodia, it's no longer Thailand's business. The Cambodians or others will have to take care of those people."

UNBRO said Wednesday it was deeply concerned by press reports that many Cambodians at UN-assisted camps will be moved en masse across the border. The agency warned of dangers across the border such as landmines and the outbreak of diseases in areas lacking adequate medical facilities.

"UNBRO strongly urges all concerned authorities to respect the human rights of the Khmer civilians in all UN-assisted and other border camps. Civilians must be able to exercise free choice in any future movement back to their country of origin," UNBRO said in a press release. The release was issued after a senior Khmer Rouge official said almost all refugees allied with his faction were being moved from secret camps at the Thai border to a strip of land the Khmer Rouge controls in western Cambodia.

Mitr Chuk, head of the Khmer Rouge's civilian administration, said the move had nothing to do with Thailand's neutral-camp plan, described by a relief official as "a death warrant for the guerrilla movements". Relief officials say existing border camps controlled by resistance factions have served as sources for food, draft pools for fighters and population centers for forming political constituencies.

Chatchai said Wednesday many displaced Cambodians in the guerrilla-controlled camps wanted to go back to their homeland but were restrained by the resistance.

Burmese Airplane Hijackers Sentenced to 6 Years

BK2103062890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0543 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Bangkok, March 21 (AFP)—Two Burmese students were sentenced Wednesday [21 March] by a Thai criminal court here to prison terms of six years each for hijacking a Burma Airways passenger plane last year, court officials said.

The students, Ye Yint, 21, and Ye Thiha, 25, hijacked the Burmese airliner with 80 passengers on board on October 6 shortly after the plane took off from Burma's southern city of Mergui for Rangoon. The plane landed at U-Taphao, a military air base in eastern Thailand, where all passengers and crew members were later released.

Sitthi Comments on Possible SAP Reorganization

BK1703042290 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Mar 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said yesterday he is ready to give up his ministerial post and party leadership if his colleagues in the Social Action Party [SAP] feel he can no longer contribute to the party. At least 30 SAP MPs [members of Parliament] are manoeuvring to oust ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi and his deputy Praphat Limpaphan from their ministerial posts.

"Old soldiers never die,they just fade away," said ACM Sitthi after arriving in Bangkok from a week-long visit to Eastern Europe.

SAP Secretary-General Montri Phongphanit said yesterday he had received a motion from party MPs calling for a reshuffle within the party. The motion did not say which ministers were to be replaced. Mr Montri said the party would meet on March 26 to consider the issue.

Sources said former SAP leader M.R. Khukrit Pramot had been consulted and had given the reshuffle move the green light.

"I've never tried to hold on to the posts of party leader and foreign mnister. Everything is uncertain," ACM Sitthi said yesterday. He said he had served as foreign minister for 11 years and had never thought he was the only person who could perform that duty.

He said he would try his best to serve the country and would give up if he felt too exhausted to carry on. But ACM Sitthi said he would continue to run in future elections either as a party leader or an ordinary member.

Asked about speculation that he might be made a deputy prime minister, ACM Sitthi said he would not object to it. "I am not the type of leader who only gives orders. I will listen to others to see if they have good reasons. I won't say yes or no now. I will have to see whether the change, if it takes place, will help improve anything."

ACM Sitthi said he had not yet seen the reshuffle motion, but added that the party leadership would consult among themselves whether the demand was justified. The SAP would also discuss whether the entire Cabinet should be reshuffled, he said. He said it would be unfair if the reshuffle was to affect only the SAP.

ACM Sitthi said he would allow party members who sponsored the motion to explain their move as well as give the ministers targeted in the motion a chance to defend themselves against any allegations. He described as "mere speculation" reports that his party might swop its foreign ministry portfolio with the Chat Thai's industry portfolio. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Raises Interest Rate on Loans

BK1703045690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[By Watchara Charunsantiun]

[Text] The Bank of Thailand yesterday raised the interest ceiling on loans by 1.5 percentage points to 16.5 percent and floated the intrest rates for the fixed deposit accounts in all categories, in the biggest monetary policy shake-up in three years. The announcement, which took effect yesterday, signals a fresh attack by the central bank on inflation, which climbed to an average 6.1 percent in the first two months of this year, and to bring the overheating economy under control.

More significantly, it emphasizes renewed efforts to stabilize the economy which is expected to post a double-digit growth rate for the third year in a row.

The sweeping interest rate adjustment has two major implicaions. First, it represents the central bank's attempt to liberalize the financial system by floating the interest rates of fixed deposit accounts which were earlier pegged at the ceiling of 9.5 percent. This is aimed at creating a healthy competitive environment among the commercial banks, which will have to determine their own deposit rates to take into account costs of operation.

Secondly, the adjustment means that the central bank wants to cool down the pace of economic growth, which in the past few years has increased spending power and resulted in higher levels of demand that has fuelled inflation.

Raising the interest rate ceiling is also timed to coincide with the central bank's effort to drain some Bt [baht] 30 billion in excess money out of the system. Through this means, the liquidity in the system will be kept at a level that does not distort the economy.

"We believe that the interest rate rise will slow down people's spending, but will not create a slump in the economy. And neither will it have any significant impact on the costs of production, and that should spur the economy to grow at an appropriate rate of 8 to 9 percent this year," said Dr Chaiyawat Wibunsawat, director of the central bank's Department of Supervision and Examination.

The aim he explained, is also to slow down the credit growth in the commercial banking system from the current rate of 30 percent to 24 percent for the entire year, while allowing inflation not to rise beyond 6 to 6.5 percent. However, the savings rate will remain unchanged at 7.25 percent so that it will not create an adverse impact on the Revenue Department's tax collection. The 7.25 percent ceiling of the saving rate serves as a base that the department uses to calculate the interest tax currently charged at 15 percent.

At the same time, the interest rate for housing loans will be held tight at the ceiling of 15 percent, a move seen as a central bank compromise to the Finance Minister, Pramuan Saphawasu, who has strongly voiced objections to higher rates.

In fact, the central bank proposed to bring up the interest rate ceiling by two percentage points in December as a means to tackle inflation, but that was swiftly vetoed by Pramuan in a Cabinet meeting. As it happened, a tug of war between the central bank and the Finance Ministry ensued, with the latter trying to dominate the former in the conduct of monetary affairs.

It was not until last week that Pramuan agreed to loosen his grip on the country's monetary policy after central bank governor Kamchon Sathirakun had been sacked. Kamchon was replaced by his deputy, Chawalit Thanachanan.

Under the new interest rate adjustment policy, low-income earners, in cases where houses are pledged as collatoral, will be allowed to borrow a maximum Bt500,000 (from the previous Bt400,000) to buy a new house, and banks will not be able to charge them more than 15 percent interest. And in case the home buyer does not pledge his house as collateral, they will be entitled to borrow up to Bt650,000 as a maximum.

The commercial banks are given an incentive to lend more money to low-income home buyers by being allowed to add these housing loans to their risk-asset ratio of 20 percent, a similar measure that they are enjoying with their loans extended to industries or services in the upcountry.

Central bank governor Chawalit has asked representatives of the 15 local commercial banks to maintain the current lending rates for low-income borrowers as long as possible, and in the event of a rise, allow the borrowers to continue to pay the same level of monthly installments but for a longer period.

Housing loans have been extended to 230,000 borrowers and amount to about Bt58 billion, or 6 percent of the entire credit in the system.

Of these, 186,000 account for low-income borrowers, who together owe Bt36 billion to the commercial banks or other financial institutions, or 3.6 percent of the total credit in the system. The low-income borrowers are currently charged interest of between 13.5 to 14.5 percent.

The central bank has also slashed the overdraft account (OD) to a maximum Bt30 million per individual customer for fears that the OD system might be exploited given the fact that it accounts for 30 percent, or Bt500 billion, of all the credit in the system. On the entire OD amount, only Bt310 billion has been tapped, leaving Bt180 billion unused.

According to Chaiyawat, about 1,300 bank customers, from the total 41,000, have access to the money in the OD system at Bt50 million each. "We do not consider the OD will have to be reduced so that the commercial banks will be able to manage their money in a more efficient fashion," he said.

Vietnam

Conference on Ideological Task Held 20-24 Feb

BK1903150590 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 27 Feb 90 pp 1,4

[Report by Le Huyen Thong, Nguyen Kien Phuoc, and The Gia]

[Text] From 20 to 24 February in Ho Chi Minh City, the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Department of Ideology and Culture held a national conference on the ideological task and the local press. Attending the conference were more than 220 delegates who are propaganda and training committee heads of party committees of provinces, cities, and special zones; editors in chief of various newspapers; directors of radio and television stations nationwide; and some comrades in charge of the press and radio broadcasts at the central level and the various party Central Committee departments.

Comrade Tran Trong Tan, head of the CPV Central Committee Department of Ideology and Culture read a report on the ideological tasks achieved in 1989. Comrade Tran Hoan, minister of information, introduced the press law and provided guidance for its implementation.

The conference delegates were glad to welcome comrades Nguyen Van Linh, General Secretary of the CPV and Dao Duy Tung, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, who came to listen to the delegates debate and assess the ideological situation and discuss the guidelines and tasks for 1990.

Many delegates, through their practical life at the grass roots, affirmed that during the past year the ideological work effectively propagated the party positions and policies on renovation, thereby contributing to changing concepts of cadres, party members, and the people while motivating the masses to enthusiastically implement renovation in various fields, especially the economic domain. Many Localities and sectors have firmly grasped and extensively disseminated the four major lessons set forth by the Sixth CPV Congress, especially the one concerning "taking the people as the root." They have also paid special attention to propagating the concept of developing the multicomponent commodity-based economy and vigorously shifting to business accounting while maintaining the key role played by the state-run economy. The ideological work has given rise to the people's awareness of their mastery role and the spirit of struggle against negativism, while extensively motivating the people to support the party's foreign policy.

Against the background of the seething, complicated situation at home and abroad, the party ideological organ has contributed to helping the party Central Committee and the Political Bureau promptly issue resolutions on ideological work with correct orientations for uniform thinking and action. Mass media agencies, lecturers, and cultural and artistic units have continued making progress in broadening democracy and openess in more diversified forms and lively contents. They have introduced more progressive models, while struggling against negativism in the party and society.

The conference agreed that these achievements are merely preliminary and that we should not be subjective and complacent since there still are many limitations and shortcomings in the ideological task. It is obvious that tasks related to the theoretical study and assessment of reality are still weak, thus we are unable to promptly provide cadres, party members, and the people with scientific arguments to criticize and struggle against concepts counter to party policies and socialism theory. Many localities and sectors have not paid proper attention to upholding the revolutionary vigilance and enhancing the active struggle against all propaganda schemes of the enemy. Many party committees and administrative echelons have loosely controlled newspaper management and cultural and artistic activities. Works of a number of newspapers and radio stations in localities carry local characteristics and have not profoundly entered the people's daily life. Presenting current events and disseminating party policies have not been carried out extensively at the grass roots, especially in the mountain and border areas. Activities of party chapters and collectives in many localities were incoherent and could not grasp the state of the public mind. Many leading cadres seldom got in touch with the people at the grass roots and failed to guide their subordinates to carry out the propaganda work among the masses.

Ideological indoctrination does not go hand in hand with organizational work and fails to fulfill projected goals or keep pace with the requirements of socioeconomic development. These shortcomings have led to a

discrepancy between words and deeds which, in turn, has caused the people to lose their confidence in the party. There are many causes leading to this situation. Nonetheless, the main culprit rests with our failure to promptly carry out ideological work and secure high results to meet the requirements of ideological education in the new situation. A lack of sufficient efforts to conduct ideological research and to derive lessons from real life situations is the very reason why sometimes there were more criticisms than constructive opinions. The party and the state still do not pay sufficient attention to our cadres, party members, and people's need and right to have access to information. Despite the fact that the party has adopted the motto of "letting the people understand, discuss, implement, and supervize" and has attached primary importance to efforts to "keep the people informed," it has not worked out policies and measures, and most importantly of all, has not invested in the construction of material and technical bases to give everyone access to information. According to many delegates, because responsible state organs have not fully realized the present and future role of information, propaganda, cultural, and artistic activities, they have failed to formulate appropriate financial and investment policies.

The conferees discussed rather thoroughly the real ideological stature of the people of various strata. It is clear that large segments of cadres, party members, and the people have trusted the party's renovation line and have admitted that state management has improved. These positive indications must be credited to the initial results of various economic policies and efforts to renovate the management mechanism, implement democracy, combat negativism, renovate external relations, and consolidate national defense and security.... These realities have made the vast majority of the masses understand that our party is fully capable of guiding the people in the new economic development stage.

Besides some positive aspects, many delegates straightforwardly raised some issues worthy of concern, especially problems concerning the masses who have not felt at ease because achievements are not steady and usual difficulties have not been thoroughly overcome. The delegates' views reflect five issues which need proper attention as follows: Continued efforts are needed to carry out renovation, implement democracy—first of all within the party—and social justice, improve party organizations and quality of party members, assess the situation of serious crises in East European countries, and study ideological guidelines and tasks for 1990. Prominent among these issues are democracy and social justice. Some delegates pointed to certain unsettled cases of injustice reported by the people who have witnessed corrupt cadres in positions of authority indulge in debauchery and retaliate against loyal people but still go unpunished or subjected to only light punishment.

Violations against social justice have been noted quite markedly in the various regions between people of various strata and even in the implementation of various policies toward different economic sectors. Discontent has prevailed, seriously affecting the blood-sealed relationship between the party and the people, first of all people who have remained boundlessly loyal to the revolution, and then exerting a negative impact on other people of different walks of life, especially youths. After listening to the views expressed by many delegates, Comrade Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh addressed the conference on the world situation and the party-building task. He also expressed some opinions on press work.

The comrade general secretary began by making general assessments of positive changes in our country in the process of socioeconomic renovation in 1989. He mentioned noteworthy successes in tackling the shortage of food and commodities, in averting and dispelling inflation, and in stabilizing prices, saying, however, that these successes are just initial, unsteady steps. Our people are still dissatisfied with the fact that social justice has not yet been guaranteed. Taking advantage of loose state management, a number of people have engaged in illegal activities and have become rich overnight. Of them, a number of cadres who are in influential positions and who control state money and goods have led lavish and debauched lifestyles with their ill-gotten money.

Meanwhile, the lifestyle of retired cadres, of members of the armed forces, and of many families of war invalids and fallen heroes faces numerous difficulties. Just as Uncle Ho said: We are not afraid of shortage but rather of injustice. It is our party's policy to carry out a comprehensive and uniform renovation both economically and politically. Above all, we must satisfactorily build the economy in a way that does not create political instability and opportunities for the miscreants to step in to create troubles. We must gradually and steadily carry out political renovation. Initial successes scored last year serve as an assurance for the continuity of our renovation undertaking. However, we must adopt steady steps, forms, and work methods suitable to the specific conditions in our country.

Touching on the situation in East European countries, the comrade secretary general stated emphatically that the first thing we can affirm is that the existence of the socialist system over the past few decades has been a salient historical success. It is precisely due to the socialist system, which came to life with the Great Russian October Revolution, that the face of the world has changed. If one failed to realize this fact, he would easily stray away in the face of current major eventful changes in a number of socialist countries. The comrade general secretary analyzed the reasons leading to this crisis: Generally speaking, although each of these countries has different situations, their social development has been seriously stunted, chiefly because of prolonged maintenance of very backward bureaucratic and subsidy-based mechanisms, willful violation of the law and other principles of democratic centralism, and maintenance of despotism, arbitrariness, and personality cult. This is not to mention the many schemes and tricks of

imperialism. The results will depend on whether the genuine communists in each country can firmly grasp and correctly apply Marxism-Leninism in their specific conditions or whether they can firmly maintain their persistent willpower and regain trust among a broad section of the laboring masses, especially the working class, if they are to join with the party in struggling against forces attempting to steer their country away from the socialist path.

Dealing with the 1990 tasks, the comrade general secretary emphatically pointed out that ideological work must contribute to spurring the renovation undertaking, continuing to broaden democracy, caring for the people's lives, constantly improving the knowledge and perfecting the party leadership while renovating the work methods, respecting and develping the operating role of the state and of elected organs at various levels, and bringing to full play the role of various mass organizations.

The comrade General Secretary cited some cases where many cadres and party members, owing to a lack of self-improvement efforts, have committed serious mistakes such as bureaucratism, alienating themselves from the masses, opportunism, corruption, bullying people, and others. In order to restore confidence and strengthen relations between the party and masses, specific attention must be paid to building the party and the administration into clean, steadfast ones that will purge degenerate and deviant elements.

Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, on behalf of the Political Bureau, hailed various mass news media organs from the central down to local levels as well as propaganda and training sections at various echelons, for their great efforts to promote the mass movement to actively support various renovative policies of the party and state, thus contributing to making 1989 a success. The comrade general secretary warned various local party committee echelons including provincial and city party committees' propaganda and training sections against relaxation of control over book publication and against failure to provide close leadership to local newspapers. Because of this, a number of newspapers have taken erroneous views. For example, a Sunday magazine published under the name of the CPV organization of province T had a picture of a nude girl on its cover and dealt with many murder cases. Such unhealthy phenomena have been found not only in province T but also in many other localities.

The comrade general secretary pointed to democratic rights in information work: It is certain that democracy, especially among people, must continue to be broadened. In this process, a divergence of opinion is usual. What is important is that we should not allow divergence to lead to division. Once a collective decision is made, the minority must submit themselves to the majority and the lower echelon to the higher. The minority's opinion must be respected even if it is inconsistent with that of the majority. However, opinions should not be aired indiscriminately. Democracy is accompanied by centralism, law, discipline, and a sense of responsibility as party members or citizens. Democracy must have leadership, and party leadership must be carried out using a democratic method on the basis of upholding democracy. We must be democratic toward people. However, we must severely punish those violating the law, undermining revolutionary gains, and disturbing public order, security and social safety.

Every party cadre and member of whatever position must without exception live and work according to the law like ordinary citizens. It is necessary to struggle against negative phenomena in efforts to commend new factors and introduce progressive models in renovating the management mechanism and executing the new economic policy. As for negative cases already brought to light, we must quickly examine them, accurately conclude, and deal with them fairly and promptly. It is necessary to renovate ideological and information work, ensuring that it has copious, diverse, and more attractive contents. Propaganda must have direction. Propaganda on the international situation must contribute to enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation between our people and our fraternal countries and strengthen friendships throughout the world while making everyone aware of imperialism.

Comrade Dao Duy Tung discussed the development and causes of the current crises in several socialist countries. In a renovative spirit, he outlined the ideological task for 1990 to enhance the quality of party leadership, implement democracy, struggle against negativism, renovate and intensify mass mobilization work, uphold revolutionary ethics, and strengthen unity among people.

Well aware of the favorable conditions and difficulties, the delegates unanimously agreed that the primary ideological task in 1990 is to continually and thorougly learn the four lessons of the sixth party congress and the five guidelines for renovation. This includes clarifying our party's viewpoints on socialism, socialist democracy, and its leading role and comprehensively enhancing the sense of defending national independence. While opposing old dogmatism we must also oppose the new, heighten vigilance, consolidate national defense and security, frustrate all enemy plots and sabotage, and make all people understand that imperialism has never relinquished its anti-socialist objectives. The delegates stressed the need to enhance revolutionary qualities and ethics, consolidate solidarity, party and people unity, continue struggling against negativism, and continue fighting against illicit business, corruption, privileges, and oppression of the masses.

The delegates put forth some measures to further renew and increase the effectiveness of the ideological task. First, activities must grasp new developments in the political psyche of the masses and the newly emerging viewpoints to analyze and assess them and to take remedial action. Ideological operations must be conducted and vigorously directed in many forms toward

the grass-roots level to ensure that current information, policies, and important decisions of party and state can reach the masses and members at the grass-roots level, especially in outlying mountain and border areas. Emphasis must be placed on renovating and qualitatively enhancing the activities of party committee echelons and basic party organizations. This is to create a pattern of discussion and debate for cadres and party members to help them understand the situation, grasp party and state policies, and continually contribute to the development of the economy and achieving democracy and social justice.

Article Views Impact of Party's Eighth Plenum

BK1903012090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 90 p 5

[Article by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Eye on Indochina" entitled: "A Look at Vietnam's 8th Plenum"]

[Text] During the seventh plenum of the Communist Party last August, the Vietnamese leadership gave the impression, reinforced by various official statements regarding the situation in Poland, that Vietnam was moving back toward a more traditional Marxist line. Many observers read Nguyen Van Linh's report—which contained a language reminiscent of the fifties—as a call for increased orthodoxy and wondered what was happening to the more flexible line decided by the 6th Congress in December 1986.

Hanoi had certainly been troubled by events taking place in Poland, where a non-communist member of Solidarity had just been appointed Prime Minister, and where the communist party had fared very badly in the first free elections, losing every contested seat to Solidarity members. But, many Vietnamnese senior sources quickly told Western diplomats, the key of the seventh plenum was to be found in the renewed confidence expressed by the party leadership toward economic reforms. Indeed, one source close to the secretary-general told us a few weeks later, the party was shocked by what happened in Poland. But there will not be any return to previous policies. "We want reforms, we will get reforms," he concluded. The source proved to be correct against those who, based on some of the seventh plenum documents, had hastily predicted a return to strict Marxist-Leninism. Communist regimes in Eastern Europe were soon swept away from power. "We understood now that these regimes failed because there was a lack of democracy, not just because of a poor economic situation," a Vietnamese party source told us last January. And he added: Our party too must be careful. We must bring more democracy or we too will suffer."

In the past two years there has been a considerable relaxation of life in Vietnam. To the outside visitor, this is especially noticeable in the attitude of the police. Once oversuspicious of any foreigner, of any unofficial contact between Vietnamese and foreigners, the police now seem to concentrate more and more on their normal duty: crime fighting. "From now on, the police have to obey the law," is how on Vietnamese citizen explained it to us during the last Tet.

At the end, the seventh plenum concentrated more on economic than on political matters. Today, better informed of what took place in Eastern Europe, the party, while not ready yet for true pluralism, is taking a hard look at the democratisation of public life in Vietnam. Because of past experiences, most party leaders see political pluralism more as a source of chaos than of improved political life. Professor Tran Bach Dang, a leading figure of the southern-based reformist Club of Resistance Fighters and a man who still proclaims himself a communist militant, said that should multi-partism be allowed at the present stage, there will be dozens of parties appearing overnight. "But these parties will be nothing more than the expression of some people's greed for power," he believes. "These parties will have no serious programme, no competent leaders, and will be just looking for ways to make money through the pretence of democracy."

Only the Communist Party is prepared and has the expertise for government, claimed Tran Bach Dang. But, he added during a long conversation with this correspondent a few weeks ago in Ho Chi Minh City, much improvement is needed within the party. "The party's monopoly on power does not reflect its desire to monopolise power, but is an historical consequence of the refusal of the other parties to fight," said Tran Bach Dang. But, he added, the party is not good enough yet. "What do we need to make it a good party? We need a good secretary-general, and a good Central Committee. This can only come out of a good Congress. To have a good congress you need good, representative and well-educated delegates. And you will only get good delegates if you have a good party membership. We need grey cells...," he concluded.

Improvement of the leadership is very much what the eighth plenum is all about. Never before have so many people—including non-communists—been asked their opinion. Never before have discussions been so frank and so widespread. "We need young people in the party," said Tran Bach Dang. He believes members of the Central Committee should be 40 to 55 years old and the secretary-general no more than 55. Vietnam, many party leaders explain, will remain socialist. What does it exactly mean to be socialist today? It is unclear. "We have to be on the move, we must be flexible. Marxism cannot stand still," insists Tran Bach Dang.

The eighth plenum (since the Party Congress of December 1986) is especially important as it will probably be the last—or one of the very last—before the next Party Congress. The time [has] come for the party to decide what it wants for itself, what kind of Vietnam it wants in the near future. There is little real opposition to the party in North Vietnam. As one former party member remarked, "as long as the party lets people enjoy economic and a degree of political

freedom, the majority of the population will be quite happy." A great number of people also seem to agree that pluralism, at this stage, could bring more chaos than benefits. There is more political debate in the South. Southerners in general would like a privately-owned Press, more political freedom, better access to world information and less interference from what they see as dogmatic and incompetent cadres. They don't care much about the party, but are not ready to fight very hard for pluralism either. Should the party dramatically improve its performance, most southerners wil probably be ready to give it a chance.

Hanoi Party Committee Reviews Tasks in 1990

BK1803163390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Summary] The Hanoi municipal party committee recently held its 15th conference to assess the 1989 situation and to discuss tasks for the municipal party organization in 1990. The resolution of the conference pointed out that:

In 1989, important changes had initially been made in all municipal party organization tasks. Despite complex developments at home and abroad, political security in the capital was firmly maintained. Also, national defense work changed with the new requirements, and the tasks of developing the party, consolidating the administration, and mass mobilization work underwent positive changes. However, there still were many difficulties and shortcomings. Complex changes in the world situation and the imperialists' schemes against socialism constantly affected the political security of both the capital and the country. Party and mass mobilization work to meet new requirements were not done and were still weak in many aspects. Although the party, administrative apparatus, and mass organizations had been rearranged, in some localities their duties had not yet been defined, and efficiency was limited.

Meanwhile, the number of redundant cadres had not been dealt with yet. Many negative phenomena still existed in society. Despite positive action with encouraging results in the socioeconomic domain, the mass movement was still plagued by many complex changes. In 1989 Hanoi's successes and shortcomings were influenced by many subjective and objective factors. However, the guidance and supervision of the municipal party committee and its standing body was one of the important factors. In 1989, both committees continued to make changes in guidance and supervision work while fostering democracy and collective intellect to define policies and guidelines for the municipality renovation process. The committees also made progress in work operations, and cooperation and mutual assistance between them and the various municipal central-level organs. However, they still revealed many shortcomings in guidance and supervision work. On economic work, leadership over the implementation of the municipal party committee's resolution no. 11 showed many shortcomings; its efficiency was limited. Although the committee paid attention to developing various economic components, especially state-operated ones, it was still confused and lacked in creating favorable conditions for the economic components to retain leadership.

Although there was greater attention on the expansion of economic cooperation with foreign countries, this was done slowly and its potential not realized. Meanwhile, leadership over the new management mechanism was not uniform and still focused on specific tasks and not on strategic matters. On social work, no adequate attention has been paid to effectively solve many pressing, and serious problems. People's complaints were settled slowly. Also, nothing has been done yet to establish a permanent mechanism for urban management. In the renovation process, mass-related work and party building had not been placed on an equal footing yet. The Hanoi municipal party committee and its standing body still failed to strictly supervise the renovation of mass-related work. On operations, though the municipal party committee and its standing body have tried to change it, it still had many shortcomings. The principle of democratic centralism in leadership was not fully applied, and they were slow in revising some irrational points in it. The resolution of the Hanoi municipal party committee's 15th conference stresses:

First, it is necessary to continue shifting all economic activities vigorously to the accounting and business system and to step up the establishment of a multicomponent commodity economic structure while striving to fulfill the 1990 plan and making preparations for the 1991-95 plan. Second, more must be done to satisfactorily solve all social problems while making an obvious change in urban development and management. Third, it is necessary to attach importance to national defense and security in light of the new situation.

The resolution also pointed out the need to renovate the leadership of the party organization in all aspects and improve its quality to ensure success in the municipality's renovation process.

Symposium on Activities in Southern Provinces

BK1903063090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The Supreme People's Organ of Control recently held a symposium in Dalat Municipality, Lam Dong Province, on the activities of the people's control sector in the southern provinces and municipalities. Some 23 reports were presented by the various organs of control—notably those of Ho Chi Minh City, Lam Dong, Dong Nai, An Giang, Dong Thap, Khanh Hoa, and the Central School of Control. They noted the position, role, and functions of the control sector as part of the state machinery as well as the realistic and effective activities it conducted over the past 30 years, particularly during the 15 years following the liberation of the south. In preparation for celebrating the sector's 30th founding

anniversary, the Supreme People's Organ of Control has launched an emulation drive to satisfactorily carry out social and sectorial management and defend the socialist legal system.

Illegal Departure Organizers Tried in Ben Tre

BK1903070790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Report by the newspaper DONG KHOI—date not given]

[Summary] On 6 March the Ben Tre Provincial People's Court held a public trial of Phan Van Thanh and his accomplices on charges of organizing people to flee abroad. Five lawyers were present to plead on behalf of the defendants at the court session chaired by Mr. Nguyen Van Nguyen. Phan Van Thanh, commonly known as Muoi Hung, of Thoi Thanh Village, Thanh Phu District, Ben Tre Province, joined a gang to organize people to flee abroad in September 1984. In his first venture, Thanh helped take the wife and children of Mr. Dien to a waiting boat to flee abroad. Later, in 1985 Thanh carried out five more ventures in which his duty was to take people from rendezvous points to large boats for escape.

By the end of 1985, some members of this gang also fled abroad, leaving Thanh behind to lead the rest of the gang. Thanh's group led a number of touts residing in Ho Chi Minh City. They were Pham Viet Hung, Lu Quy Huong, Vo Thanh Phong, Pham Van Dinh, Bui Van Banh, Tran Lien, Nguyen Nguyen Thuong, and Pham Van Hien, whose duty was to find customers. There were also some men known as "taxis" charged with picking up customers and taking them to the boat. They were Nguyen Van Son, Nguyen Thanh Nghiep, Vo Van Thanh, and Cao Van Be of Ben Tre. This gang would not immediately ask for payment from the escapees. Instead, they would only collect the fees—ranging from two to three taels of gold—from the relatives of the escapees after the latter arrived at their destination safely and informed their relatives by mail of their successful trip.

From early 1986 to January 1987, the gang led by Phan Van Thanh organized eight additional illegal departures. Three were successful. By October 1987, the Ben Tre public security force had already arrested Tran Lien and issued an arrest warrant for Phan Van Thanh. Tran Van Chi of Ho Chi Minh City, a member of Tran Van Thanh's gang, bought off Tran Van Vuong alias Hai Chien—who was at that time working for the Interior Ministry in Ho Chi Minh City—with 1.85 taels of gold, and the latter pressured the Ben Tre public security force into setting free Tran Lien on 30 April 1988. In January 1988, Phan Van Thanh surrendered himself to the Ben Tre public security force, which later used him as an informant to arrest other members of the gang.

Phan Van Thanh, on the one hand, acted as an informant for the Ben Tre public security force. On the other hand, he abused his acquaintance with a number of leading cadres of the Ben Tre public security force—such as Tam Buu, deputy head of Ben Tre public security force and head of the security office; Ba Phong, deputy head of the security office; Ha Phuong, head of the counter-espionage office; and Ho Van Doan, leader of a counter-espionage team—to organize three additional departures on a larger scale for people fleeing abroad. Of the three departures, 125 people in the 25 May 1988 departure made it to their destination. In the 20 October 1988 departure, Thanh, Dinh, and Thuong used two boats to take 119 people to flee abroad. One of the boats sank in the open sea, killing 16 persons. The other boat was captured. The departure points for various escape trips organized by Thanh's gang were somewhere on the Ham Luong river, at the tail of the Con La and Con Linh islets, and later on the Vam Cai Cam estuary near Ben Tre city.

Following the disastrous 20 October 1988 departure and about to be tracked down by the Ben Tre public security force, in March 1989 the gang organized a last trip so all its members could leave. This plan did not work, however, and one after another, all members of the gang were arrested. In all, from September 1984 to March 1989, Phan Van Thanh and his accomplices arranged for some 1,000 people to flee abroad. They organized a total of 19 illegal departures, eight of which were successful. Thanh and his accomplices earned hundreds of taels of gold. The Ben Tre Provincial People's Court on 11 March 1990 handed down the following sentences: Phan Van Thanh was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment; Tran Van Chi was sentenced to 18 years in jail; and the rest received jail terms ranging from three to 12 years.

Quang Ngai Sees Decline in Wired Radio Service

BK1903004090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Due to the shortage of funds, only 85 wired radio stations—about 40 percent of the total amount last year—at grass-roots units in Quang Ngai Province were able to maintain their operations as of February. Stations in the four mountain districts served only nearby towns and villages and could not extend their network to distant localities. The decline in wired radio service at the grass-roots level was due to the lack of public funds for the maintenance and repair of old equipment. Also, local party committee and administrative echelons did not pay attention to developing the wired radio service system. The majority of people held that Quang Ngai Province should formulate a new investment plan to improve the local wired radio service system so people can be promptly informed about the tasks and activities of the party and state.

Storm Victims Face Food Shortage in Provinces

BK1903075690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Presently, part of the population in the Nghe Tinh, Thanh Hoa, and Quang Binh areas hit by typhoons

and floods last year is facing a food shortage. The heavily-stricken districts include Ky Anh, Cam Loc, Duc Tho, Nghi Xuan, Nghi Loc, Quynh Luu, and Thach Ha of Nghe Tinh Province; Tinh Gia, Quang Xuong, and Nong Cong of Thanh Hoa Province; and Le Ninh of Quang Binh Province.

In the hard-hit district of Ky Anh, up to two-thirds of the local population are encountering food shortages. In the fifth-month spring crop, various localities, with assistance from the central sectors, have helped one another complete rice planting and enlarging vegetable and short-term subsidiary food crop areas. The local people are now intensively tending the early winter-spring rice to have an early harvest, and also vegetables and short-term subsidiary food crops. They expect to reap them in early April to alleviate the food shortage during the off-season period.

Nghe Tinh Tries To Cope

BK1903093990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Recently, the minister of Agriculture and Food Industry made a fact-finding tour of life and production in Nghe Tinh Province. The Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare also sent a group of cadres to study living during the preharvest period in the former zone-4 provinces. The comrade leaders of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and various administrative echelons in Nghe Tinh Province reached identical views on a number of emergency measures to control food shortages during the preharvest period. Apart from requesting grain supply from the state to help solve problems facing families eligible for social welfare or families lacking manpower or with elderly and crippled people, they suggested that to prevent a shortage during the preharvest period an additional quantity of paddy should be obtained from the provincial branch of the national reserve department on a loan basis for distribution to the people The people will make repayment either in paddy and other farm products or in cash from the next rice harvest.

Nghe Tinh also proposed that a loan of grain be granted to support those people building the embankment of sea dikes in an effort to put some 30,000 hectares of land in the coastal area—which has been affected by saline water from the collapse of sea dikes—under rice cultivation in the next 10th-month crop season. With the coordination of the central grain corporation, the provincial grain sector has regulated the supply of rice among various localities, ensuring that the amount of rice is always sufficient for sale to the people, especially in areas facing food shortages. Apart from allowing free circulation of grain, Nghe Tinh has encouraged the grain sectors in other provinces and grain corporations at the central level to bring rice for sale to the local people.

Bilateral Cooperation Promoted With Canada

BK1803092990 Hanoi VNA in English 0711 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—A joint survey has been made between Vietnamese scientists and their Canadian counterparts in a team of the International Development Research Center (IDRC) of Canada's National Assembly. The team came to inquire into Vietnam's priorities in scientific and technical information in order to prepare for bilateral cooperation in the years to come.

While here, the Canadian guests visited Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Quang Nam-Danang Province where they conferred with their Vietnamese counterparts on related matters. They also made fact-finding tours of various localities to collect data in agriculture, health-care, water conservancy, technology... as a basis for future technical assistance and consultation.

The delegation was received by Prof. Dang Huu, chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology.

Leaders Send Message of Recognition to Namibia

BK2003160190 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 20—Vietnam's recognition of the Republic of Namibia was announced in a joint message of greetings sent today by State Council President Vo Chi Cong and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi to Namibia's President Sam Nujoma and Premier Hage Geingoh on the occasion of the proclamation of Namibia's independence.

In their message, the Vietnamese leaders described the event as a glorious victory and an inevitable result of the Namibian people's staunch struggle under the leadership of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) over the past 30 years with strong support from other peoples in Africa and the world over.

The Vietnamese leaders wished the fraternal Namibian people new successes in defending the gains of their struggle and building a prosperous country.

Paper Hails Namibia Independence Declaration

BK2103090190 Hanoi VNA in English 0734 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] NHAN DAN today says that the Republic of Namibia's declaration of independence today in Windhoek is a jubilation, a success of historical significance of the Namibian people, the movement for national liberation in Africa and all nations which cherish peace, independence, freedom and justice in the world.

The paper continues: "Namibia becomes independent and the last colony of the apartheid regime is abolished, opening a fine prospect for the situation in Southern Africa. This is a heavy failure of the South African

administration and other international reactionary forces in their policy of colonialism.

"The Vietnamese people have for long extended their solidarity and full support for the Namibian people's just struggle. Today, they continue to side with the Namibian people and support them in building a free and independent Namibia. In this joyful day, the Vietnamese people great achievements in building a new, unified, progressive and prosperous Nambibia." [sentence as received]

Do Muoi Sends Greetings on Antiapartheid Day

BK2003161590 Hanoi VNA in English 1526 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 20—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi today sent a message of greetings to United Nations Secretary General Javier Parez de Cuellar, President of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid Joseph N. Garda, and President of the African National Congress Oliver Tambo, on the occasion of the International Day for the Abolition of Racial Discrimination (March 24).

In his message, the Vietnamese leader reiterated Vietnam's strong and consistent support for the just cause of the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress, and of other countries in South Africa for abolishing the apartheid regime.

He said: "Vietnam demands that the Pretoria authorities stop the arrests and other repressive acts against the people opposing apartheid, immediately and unconditionally release political prisoners, lift the emergency in South Africa, and cancel all schemes and actions designed to destabilize that region."

Australia

Hawke Prepared To Relax South Africa Sanctions

BK2103024290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0223 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Canberra, March 21 (AFP)—Australia is ready to relax sanctions against South Africa once a "meaningful dialogue" with the African National Congress (ANC) is under way, Prime Minister Bob Hawke said in an interview published Wednesday [21 March].

He told THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD that the sanctions imposed by Commonwealth countries were designed to bring the South Africans to the negotiating table, not to their knees. "So if you've got them to their senses, got them to the table, then sanctions have served their purpose," he said.

Mr. Hawke's comments appeared to indicate a softening of the Australian Government's stand on South Africa.

Earlier this month Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said in Lusaka that the object of the sanctions "is and remains the abolition of apartheid" and not just a start to negotiations.

Mr. Hawke told THE HERALD that South African President F.W. de Klerk had prepared the way for dialogue by releasing ANC figurehead Nelson Mandela from prison and lifting the government's ban on the congress. "Once the dialogue meaningfully commences—so that you can see that there is real commitment to change and that unquestionably he's committed to it—we'll deliver," Mr. Hawke said.

Australia's sanctions against South Africa include a ban on official sporting contacts in line with the Gleneagles Agreement, a ban on air links, new government and bank loans and a wide range of exports and imports.

Mr. Hawke ruled out any easing of sanctions until after the May meeting in Nigeria of the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Committee on South Africa.

Evans Announces Fund for Cambodian Peace Process

BK2103065590 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0300 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Australia will donate U.S.$760,000 to a United Nations fund to advance the peace process in Cambodia. The foreign affairs minister, Senator Gareth Evans, says he envisaged the fund being used to support a series of UN fact-finding missions during the next stage of negotiations.

The fund will be administered by the UN secretary general. Senator Evans says he first canvassed the idea for such a fund last month in the lead-up to talks in Jakarta on Australia's Cambodian initiative. Despite the failure of those discussions, Senator Evans says Australia will remain in close touch with all the relevant players in the Cambodian situation and continue to offer as much support as possible to achieve an early settlement.

December Quarterly Figures Show 'Sharp Slowdown'

BK2103061390 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The latest national accounts figures have raised fears that Australia could be heading for a recession. A Radio Australia finance reporter, Philip Lasker, says the December quarter national accounts reveal a sharp slowdown in economic activity due to the prolong period of high interest rates.

The accounts show Australia experienced negative growth during the December quarter. Lasker says gross domestic product, or GDP, fell 0.2 of a percent and technically, a recession is two quarters of negative growth.

There was also a sharp fall in gross national expenditure or spending. The figures were more encouraging on the trade front with exports rising nearly 4 percent and a drop of almost 2 percent in imports.

New Caledonia

Kanak Leader on Achievements of Separatists

BK2103095290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0854 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Noumea, March 21 (AFP)—A New Caledonian pro-independence leader Wednesday [21 March] denied claims that the country's main separatist movement had achieved nothing for nearly two years but conceded that "things were not going as well as they should."

"It is false to say that the independentists do nothing and that the Matignon Accords only benefitted a small number of them," said Francois Burck, president of the Caledonian Union (UC), the main faction of New Caledonia's separatist Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS). The accords, signed in June 1988, were intended to stem a rising tide of ethnic violence and prepare the way for a self-determination vote for Caledonians in 1998. Critics have accused the FNLKS of having done nothing "in the field" since the accords were signed in June 1988.

"I demand that the independentists who criticise the FLNKS say what they themselves have done for economic development," Mr. Burck said.

Mr. Burck was speaking in an interview three days before a meeting of the FLNKS opens to elect a new president to replace Jean-Marie Tjibaou who was assassinated in May last year. The UC president, who is not running for the FLNKS presidency, also lashed out at "those who try to make us believe that we only need to plant a tree today to harvest its fruit tomorrow."

He pointed to examples of work accomplished by pro-independent provinces including the purchase or construction of hundreds of houses in the north province

and the creation of enterprises in Lifou where Mr. Burck said a Melanesian company will "for the first time" pay a profit tax.

He also pointed out that state money for the implementation of the state-province conventions signed last December, had not been paid to the provinces so far. Although "everything does not proceed as fast as it should," Mr. Burck said "what is important is to remain credible."

He admitted, however, that before the Matignon Accords, "the independentists owned nothing. That has not changed. A returning climate of trust has allowed businesses to go on again. But it is always the same people who do business. In no instance are they independentists."

Mr. Burck also said he did not believe in the emergence of a new pro-independence political force promoted by hardline seperatists to group "those disappointed by the Matignon Accords."

"Abroad as well as in New Caledonia, the FLNKS is the sole legitimate representatives of the independentist cause and nothing could proceed without involving it," Mr. Burk said.

New Zealand

Minister Views Australian Elections, Candidates

BK2003024090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0234 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Wellington, March 20—New Zealand Cabinet Minister Richard Prebble said Tuesday [20 March] he was certain Prime Minister Bob Hawke would win the Australian general elections Saturday.

"Hawke is a better leader than Peacock ... Hawke is going to win on Saturday," Mr. Prebble said in a speech to the Wellington Rotary Club.

The state-owned enterprises minister said he believed "the Liberals over there have been a poor opposition."

Apparently well aware of the risk involved in such bold predictions, Mr. Prebble added a "modest request" that press reports on his quote should be accorded equal treatment, whether his prediction turned right or wrong.

Papua New Guinea

Rebel Chief Issues Ultimatum on Island Violence

BK2003074190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0719 GMT 20 Mar 90

[By Wally Hiambohn]

[Text] Port Moresby, March 20 (AFP)—Rebel chief Francis Ona, the nominal ruler of Bougainville following the government's withdrawal last week, has issued an ultimatum to his followers to halt continuing violence on the strife-torn island.

Mr. Ona broke a four-month silence to appeal to the militants, warning that without him they could not achieve their dream of independence. "If you don't follow my wish and you continue misbehaving, I can surrender now and everything will fall apart," he said in a message broadcast over national radio.

Mr. Ona, in hiding since late 1988 when he launched a guerrilla campaign against the giant Bougainville Copper Ltd. (BCL) mine, had not been heard from since a radio recording he made in November. His silence led to suspicions he had been killed by hard-line rebels.

But Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) commander Sam Kauona recently told journalists that Mr. Ona was acknowledged as the "supreme leader" and would only come out of hiding for a major traditional ceremony acknowledging his status.

A ceasefire went into effect on Bougainville on March 2, and peace talks between the rebels and the Papua New Guinea Government were to have begun last weekend.

Official sources said no agreement had been reached so far on a venue for the talks aimed at ending the conflict which has claimed more than 80 lives.

The BRA was demanding that the talks be held on Bougainville while the government insisted they take place in the capital Port Moresby, the sources said.

A group of international observers left Bougainville last weekend after confirming the complete withdrawal of all security forces and the handover of the rebels' arms.

Mr. Ona, 35, who is understood to be back at his home village of Guava near the BCL mine, said in a recorded statement broadcast on the national radio network since Sunday that he did not condone any acts of terrorism by his men.

"We have received a lot of complaints which are giving us a bad name," Mr. Ona said.

"I want each of you to ask yourself what you fought to protect.

"Those you fought to protect now regard us as worse than the security forces."

Mr. Ona complained that many young men who were not true revolutionaries were breaking the law and harassing innocent people. "Our name has not gone down well with business people because of lot of you guys, the young ones, go into ships and just grab goods," he said.

"It is against the BRA law. Do not hold up people without reason.

"If you want anything, go to your BRA commanders and they can arrange if for you."